



This undated image provided by the F.B.I. shows Rebecca S. Parrett who was picked up by Mexican authorities on Tuesday Oct. 26, 2010 and will be turned over to U.S. authorities in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/FBI)

Government: Ohio fraud fugitive deported to U.S.

By ANDREW WELSH HUGGINS,
AP Legal Affairs Writer
COLUMBUS, Ohio — A fugitive on the loose for more than two years following her conviction in a \$1.9 billion corporate fraud case was back in the United States Wednesday following her arrest in a Mexican resort town where the government said she often went out dancing and consulted an anti-aging specialist. The Justice Department said Wednesday that Mexican authorities arrested Rebecca Parrett based on information provided by U.S. marshals in Columbus. Parrett, 62, was arrested in Ajijica, a resort town in the Mexican state of Jalisco. She was expected in federal court in Los Angeles before returning to Columbus. Parrett disappeared in March 2008 following her conviction on securities fraud, wire fraud and other charges in a scheme at health care financing company National Century Financial Enterprises. A judge sentenced her to 25 years in prison in absentia.

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Obama courts young voters as election looms

US President Barack Obama speaks during a live, commercial free youth town hall in Washington, DC, on October 14. Less than one week before key US elections, Obama courted young voters Wednesday with an unorthodox appeal from the set of the popular “Daily Show” satirical television show.

by Olivier Knox

WASHINGTON — Less than one week before key US elections, President Barack Obama courted young voters Wednesday with an unorthodox appeal from the set of the popular “Daily Show” satirical television show.

Obama was to become the first sitting president to appear on the program hosted by Jon Stewart, whose nightly skewerings of political hypocrisy and US media shortcomings have endeared him

to young Democrats.

With the party fearing a rout at the hands of fired-up Republicans in the November 2 elections, including the loss of at least the House of Representatives, the White House described the outreach as no laughing matter.

“I think obviously you’ve got a constituency of younger voters that watch that show, and it’s a good place to go and reach them,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters Tuesday.

“The president hasn’t been shy about going to the places where people are getting their information and trying to make his case. And I think that’s what he’ll do on the show,” said Gibbs.

The move came as new polls let downcast Democrats breathe a small sigh of relief, notably surveys showing the party’s candidates in California holding healthy leads over their well-funded Republican rivals.

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In this May 25, 2006 file photo, Argentina’s President Nestor Kirchner, left, and folk singer Mercedes Sosa wave during a rally marking Kirchner’s third anniversary in power at Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Associated Press

Former Argentine President Nestor Kirchner dies

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press Writer

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Former Argentine President Nestor Kirchner — the country’s most powerful politician along with his wife, current leader Cristina Fernandez — died suddenly Wednesday after suffering a heart attack, the presidency said.

Kirchner, 60, died after he was rushed in grave condition to the Formenti de Calafate hospital while having a severe heart attack, the presidency said.

“It was a sudden death,” his personal doctor, Luis Buonomo, told reporters in El Calafate, where Kirchner and his wife had gone to rest and await their turn to be counted in the nation’s census. Buonomo said an official medical report would be released later in the day.

Continued on Page A12

Army study seeks best suicide prevention programs



Peter Gutierrez, Ph.D., of the VA's Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Denver VA Medical Center, talks about a study at a news conference in Denver on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, that he will co-direct to study military suicides. Thomas Joiner at Florida State University will also co-direct the study. Researchers hope the new three-year, \$17 million study will help them reduce the rising number of suicides in the military by determining for the first time which prevention programs work and which don't.

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

By DAN ELLIOTT,
Associated Press

DENVER — Military medical researchers say their efforts to reverse the rising number of suicides among servicemembers are based on "good ideas," but they don't know which prevention programs work and which don't. They launched a \$17 million study Wednesday to find out.

None of the current training programs is evidence-based, said Army Col. Carl Castro, director of the Military Operational Medicine Research Program at Fort Detrick, Md.

"It's good ideas — experts think that this is what we need to do — but we do not have any evidence that that training actually in fact prevents suicide," he said.

The new three-year project, funded by the Army, will develop a network of researchers to study multiple aspects of suicide, look at the work of other studies and then compile a database so other researchers and people running suicide-prevention programs can see what is effective.

More than 1,100 U.S. servicemen and women killed themselves between 2005 and 2009.

In July, the Army announced a \$50 million study of suicide and mental health involving about 500,000 service members and four other research institutions.

That is separate from this initiative, which will be directed by the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver and Florida State University.

"We know we're not going to solve the suicide problem in the military with this three-year research consortium," Castro said. "But what we hope to do at the end of this three years is to lay a very solid foundation on which other research can be built."

Denver VA researcher Peter Gutierrez said the database sets this project apart from others.

It will include information from studies initiated by this project as well as studies done in other projects worldwide, he said, and it will be immediately available to policymakers. "That aspect of the consortium, I think, is really quite unique and something that we were very careful to design," he said.

The number of researchers and study subjects involved will depend on the topics chosen, Gutierrez said. □



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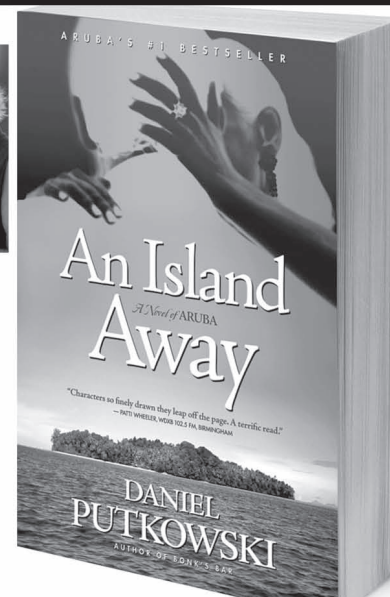
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Massive storm brings 2nd day of snow, rain, winds

By MITCH WEISS,
Associated Press

VALE, N.C. — Yolanda Corona prayed she wouldn't die.

She was watching television with 10 relatives when winds from a massive storm tearing across the U.S. roared through her neighborhood.

The windows blew out of the living room. The chimney caved in. A tree plunged through the roof. The family huddled in a back bedroom, whispering prayers, crying and holding each other. Somehow, they survived.

"We thought we were going to die. We were just so scared. We didn't have time to do anything. We all just listened and prayed for our lives," Jessica Vargas, Corona's 18-year-old granddaughter, recalled Wednesday, looking at the family's possessions, which had been strewn around their muddy yard the night before. No one was seriously hurt, but now the family must find somewhere to live.

The rare, fast-moving storm that destroyed their home also brought winds up to 81 mph, rain and tornadoes that started in the Midwest on Tuesday and continued Wednesday, moving into the southern and eastern U.S.

In suburban Chicago, Helen Miller, 41, was hurt when a branch fell about 65 feet from a large tree, crashed



Steps to a landing is all that remains from a mobile home destroyed in Vale, N.C.

into her car and impaled her stomach. Doctors removed the branch and Miller's husband said she asked him to hang on to it.

"She wants to save it for an art project or something," Todd Miller told the Chicago Sun-Times. "She's a bit of a free spirit, so I ran with it."

The National Weather Service confirmed that eight tornadoes touched down in Indiana Tuesday, but that no serious damage or injuries were reported. Ohio saw four twisters, including one with gusts of at least 111 mph that ripped through a village in the northwest part of the state, destroying several homes. Another flattened a barn and carried a large windmill 40 yards.

Pat Tanner, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Greer, S.C., said a cold front is moving east

and meeting warm, moist air causing instability in the atmosphere and spawning the storms.

In Chattanooga, Tenn., an apparent tornado on the Chickamauga Dam caused an accident that led to the closure of the highway and injured several people. Tornadoes also whirled through Racine County, Wis., where two people were injured when a section of roof was torn off a tractor factory, and Peotone, Ill., where three people were injured when a home's roof came off.

The storm brought heavy snow and winds up to 60 mph to the Dakotas for a second day Wednesday, toppling signs, power lines and trees. Most of the snow, about 8 inches, was reported in central North Dakota, and travel in much of the state was difficult.

"The weather is not very

nice out here. The winds are picking up and it's very snowy, very slick," said Linnea Reeves, a Walmart employee in Bismarck.

In Iowa, winds gusted to more than 50 mph in some places Wednesday, overturning semis on a highway and knocking down power lines.

Tornado watches and warnings were issued across the Southeast and into the Northeast.

In North Carolina, at least 11 people were hurt by the winds that destroyed Corona's home, but none seriously. "We just thank God that everyone is safe," said Corona, who had some cuts on her leg.

Nearby, Douvhen Hanby was in his backyard when he saw the fast-moving funnel cloud head toward his house. He scrambled inside and yelled for his wife and four children to

"hit the floor" in the living room. Seconds later, the house began shaking.

When the winds died down about two minutes later, the family — and their home — were more or less fine. Hanby ran to the next door to a neighbor's mobile home, which had been shredded.

He dug through the rubble with his hands, looking for the woman and four children. He found them curled up in a ball under some pieces of tin.

"They were scared, shaking. Then when it hit them they were alive, they started crying," he said.

About a mile away, Jack Hambrick, was watching TV when he saw that a line of thunderstorms and possible tornadoes were heading in his direction. When he heard the winds whip up outside his home, told his wife and daughter to head to a back bedroom for safety. But he didn't make it. The house shook and he dropped to the floor in the living room. The furniture began swirling in the room and he kept his head down. "I just wanted them to be OK."

They were, but when it was over a few minutes later, his roof and most of his walls were gone. The house was ruined.

"What are you going to do? I have a skylight," he joked. But then he turned serious. "We were lucky," he said. "Very lucky." □

AP/Chuck Burton

Backyard treehouse survives Manhattan legal fight

By VERENA DOBNIK,
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the countryside, in the suburbs or even in the leafier districts of New York's outer boroughs, a treehouse would hardly raise an eyebrow. But in a historic Manhattan neighborhood whose residents have included Mark Twain and Eleanor Roosevelt, it raised hackles. Shortly after Melinda Hackett put up the round, cedar treehouse for her girls in a broad-trunked London Plane tree in her tiny Greenwich Village backyard, a neighbor called about "a structure in rear which is nailed to a tree" and "looks unsafe," with no construction permit posted, according to a complaint filed with the city.

"I got home and the police were at the door," says Hackett, a 49-year-old artist. "Then firefighters came."

After months of legal battles, Hackett triumphed. Her girls' treehouse, apparently unique in one of America's most densely populated areas, can not only stay — it's been granted an official permit as part of a district with landmark status. Though the treehouse is only five years old, Hackett's townhouse is from the 1860s, and she bought it from musician David Byrne of the Talking Heads. The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission decided to grant the treehouse a permit because it's part of a historic landmark district.

Any addition or change on such property requires approval with a permit, and architect Robert Strong filed Hackett's structure under "recreation equipment" allowed in a backyard, according to a city zoning resolution.

It was all much more trouble than Hackett imagined when she moved to Greenwich Village in 2005 from rural upstate New York.

A single mother of three girls, ages 11, 13 and 16, the artist got the idea for her urban respite from a friend who knew two carpenters who had built one on Shelter Island, just off Long Island.

"She said, 'You should have one on your big tree!'" Hackett says.

She decided to spend \$5,000 to make up for the freewheeling existence her children had lost in North Salem, 50 miles from New York City.

"I came from the country with three little girls who were used to running around," their mother says. "I wanted them to have an oasis of calm in the city, a private space."

The treehouse was started months after she bought the property on West 12th Street from Byrne, a decade-long resident. In the backyard stands the proud London Plane, stretching high into the sky above the four-story townhouse beneath it.

Carpenters Nick Cohen and Ashley Koral worked on the project on and off for about five months.



A tree house is seen in the backyard of Melinda Hackett's home in New York City, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

"I just told them I like circular things," says Hackett, whose art is filled with circles in vivid colors.

Her ground-floor painting studio has a view of the treehouse — and of a swing made from old firewood that hangs from a branch, next to a bird feeder that attracts cardinals, blue jays and doves. "It's a beautiful treehouse; it has a beautiful design," says Strong, who helped Hackett unravel the red tape threatening her treehouse. "It's wonderful the way it encompasses the branches; it's completely rounded, flowing much like the tree."

But Hackett's neighbor, who she says "didn't love that I had moved in here with two dogs and three kids," wasn't as appreciative.

Strong at first believed the Department of Buildings would not require a permit "because we couldn't find a

niche for it in the building code," the architect says.

But after the anonymous complaint, Hackett was forced to defend herself before the city's Environmental Control Board court, where "none of the judges knew what to do with a treehouse," she says.

Hackett turned to Strong, who said he doesn't know of any other private treehouses in Manhattan — though plenty of houses in less dense areas of the city offer sizeable yards and towering trees suitable for treehouses. "This is a very rare structure in an urban environment," Strong says.

At the top of a wooden staircase with a rope bannister, under a metal roof and about 10 feet off the ground, is the world Hackett's girls enjoy.

Archie comic books and a sketch pad are strewn around. An old cassette boombox sits on a rickety table near a few chairs and a furry pillow. □

Ark. school official accused of anti-gay screed

By JILL ZEMAN BLEED,
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A member of a northern Arkansas school board, commenting on campaign to get people to wear purple to show support for bullied gay and lesbian youth, purportedly posted on Facebook that the only way he would wear purple is "if they all commit suicide." The Arkansas Department of Education on Wednesday condemned the alleged posting by Midland School Board member Clint McCance.

The Advocate, a magazine that reports about gay issues, first reported about the posting on its website. The Facebook page has been disabled, but The Advocate posted a screen grab of the purported postings that it says someone forwarded to it.

McCance's alleged posting was in response to a Facebook campaign that asked supporters to wear purple last Wednesday to show solidarity after several gay and lesbian youths killed themselves, reportedly because of bullying. "Seriously they want me to wear purple because five queers killed themselves," McCance allegedly wrote. "The only way im wearin it for them is if they all commit suicide. I cant believe the people of this world have gotten this stupid. We are honoring the fact that they sinned and killed thereselves because of their sin."

McCance didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment Wednesday left on his voicemail. But he told the Arkansas Times that the issue had been "blown out of proportion" and he planned to issue a statement later Wednesday. Officials at the Midland School District said Superintendent Dean Stanley was out of the office and not available for comment.

The Human Rights Campaign, which seeks equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, has called for McCance's resignation. □

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US President Barack Obama speaks at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's 33rd Annual Awards Gala in September 2010. Two years ago, Obama won the presidency thanks in part to a record turnout by 9.7 million Hispanics, casting 7.4 percent of the ballots nationwide. Obama got 67 percent of their votes.

OBAMA

Continued from Front Page

Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer enjoyed a 52-43 percent edge over former Hewlett-Packard chief Carly Fiorina in a public opinion poll conducted by Suffolk University. In the race to succeed outgoing Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Attorney General Jerry Brown held a 50-42 lead over former eBay boss Meg Whitman, who has spent a staggering 141.6 million dollars of her own money on the race. The poll had an error margin of plus or minus four percentage points.

Fiorina was hospitalized Tuesday with an infection stemming from reconstructive surgery after breast cancer, her office said, and hoped to be back on the campaign trail soon.

Other polls likewise gave Boxer and Brown leads over their rivals, while a range of surveys in nail-biter races in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Nevada found statistical dead heats that suggested Democrats might hold the Senate.

But in the battle for control of the House of Representatives, at least one respected political analyst, Charlie Cook, said Republicans would easily grab the 39 seats they need to recapture the chamber and could gain 48-60 spots.

"There's always a chance" Democrats could cling to control by one or two seats, he allowed on MSNBC television, but "I'll be sacking groceries" if that actually happens.

The president insisted in an interview with MSNBC television that: "The only poll that matters is going to be on November 2nd. And I still feel confident that it is a very close race in terms of the House."

Obama planned an 11th-hour blitz through key battlegrounds leading to Tuesday's vote, as Democratic former president Bill Clinton told ABC television "it will be a great mistake to count us out." "If we want it bad enough to go out there and work for it, I think we'll get it," Clinton said in Chicago, where he lent his political muscle to Democratic senate candidate Alexi Giannoulias's efforts to win Obama's old seat. □

Republicans, heading for big gains, ready agenda

By **JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS,**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Republican leaders, ever more confident of their chances of winning control of the House and possibly even the Senate, have begun plotting a 2011 agenda topped by a push for more than \$100 billion in spending cuts, tax reductions and attempts to undo key parts of President Barack Obama's health care and financial regulation laws. The question is how much of the GOP's government-shrinking, tax-cutting agenda to advance, and how fast.

It's certain that Republicans want to capitalize quickly on tea party-fueled anger and the antiestablishment fervor that they believe will provide momentum to accomplish an activist to-do list. It's equally clear, however, that the outsized expectations of a fed-up electorate and a crop of unruly newcomers could complicate the plans. So could Obama and fellow Democrats who will still be around after Tuesday's elections.

GOP lawmakers are publicly mum about much of what they intend to do if they prevail in midterm congressional contests. Many say privately they want to avoid appearing to "measure the drapes" for new leadership offices before winning any majority.

But especially in the House — where Republicans have a clear shot at scoring the 40-seat gain they would need for control — they are in intense



FILE - In this Jan. 23, 2009, file photo House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, second from left, accompanied by other Republican Congressional leaders talk to reporters outside the the White House in Washington after meeting with President Barack Obama. Republican leaders, ever more confident of their chances of winning control of the House and possibly the Senate, have begun plotting a 2011 agenda topped by a push for eye-popping spending cuts and attempts to undo key parts of President Barack Obama's health care and financial regulation laws. From left are, Senate Minority Whip John Kyl of Ariz., Boehner, House Minority Whip Eric Cantor of Virginia, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

internal talks about how a GOP-driven agenda would work.

Rep. John Boehner, in line to become speaker under that scenario, and Rep. Eric Cantor, his No. 2, have had initial discussions to ensure a plan is ready, a spokesman said.

Most agree a marquee item on a new GOP majority's agenda would be an aggressive package of spending cuts, on the order of \$100 billion or more, that could also be paired with steps to block implementation of key parts of Obama's health care law and new financial regulations.

What's less clear is how Obama would respond, and whether a turbocharged Republican majority could muster a bipartisan compromise, especially when its freshman class will probably have little appetite for following any established party position or leader. "The Republican Party is still a tattered brand. It's not as if people are enthusiastically embracing the Republican brand — they're rejecting what has been done the last two years," said Michael Franc of the conservative Heritage Foundation, a House aide following the 1994 Republican takeover. □

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Va man charged in fake bomb plot against DC subway



Commuters board a Metro train in Washington, DC. A Pakistani-American was arrested Wednesday for plotting attacks on subway stations in and around Washington with people he believed were tied to Al-Qaeda, US officials said.

By ALICIA CALDWELL,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Virginia man was arrested Wednesday and charged with trying to help people he believed were al-Qaida operatives planning to bomb subway stations around the nation's capital, the FBI said.

The FBI said the public was never in danger because its agents were aware of the man's activities before the alleged planning took place and monitored him throughout.

Farooque Ahmed, 34, a naturalized citizen born in Pakistan, had been indicted under seal Tuesday in Alexandria, Va., and the indictment was released Wednesday. He was charged with attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, collecting information to assist in planning a terrorist attack on a transit facility, and

attempting to provide material support to carry out multiple bombings to cause mass casualties at Washington-area metro stations. Ahmed lives in Ashburn, Va., outside Washington.

Federal investigators said that, starting in April, Ahmed met several times with people he believed were al-Qaida operatives. During one of those meetings, investigators said, he agreed to watch and photograph a hotel in Washington and a metro station in Arlington, Va. He also was accused of participating in surveillance, recording video of a subway station in Arlington on four different occasions, and agreeing to get security information about two stations.

Investigators said in a Sept. 28 meeting he gave diagrams of Arlington metro stations to a person he thought was part of al-Qaida and gave suggestions

about where to put explosives on trains to kill the most people in simultaneous attacks planned for 2011.

At the White House, press secretary Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama was aware of the investigation before Ahmed was arrested. Gibbs also offered assurances that the public was never in danger.

In a statement, David Kris, assistant attorney general for national security, said the case "demonstrates how the government can neutralize such threats before they come to fruition."

"Farooque Ahmed is accused of plotting with individuals he believed were terrorists to bomb our transit system, but a coordinated law enforcement and intelligence effort was able to thwart his plans," Kris said.

Ahmed faces up to 50 years in prison if convicted. □

FRAUD

Continued from Front Page

It was unclear who was representing Parrett. Gregory Peterson, her trial attorney, withdrew from the case after filing a standard appeal.

He told The Associated Press Wednesday he's not sure if she has an attorney at the moment but he would represent her if asked by the federal judge overseeing the case.

National Century, formerly based in Dublin in suburban Columbus, was raided by the FBI in 2002. At least nine former executives were later convicted of corporate fraud charges in a scandal prosecutors compared to Enron and WorldCom. Parrett was the firm's vice chairman.

Parrett was last known to have lived in Carefree, Ariz.

Before she disappeared, Parrett put aside almost \$400,000 in a bank account unknown to her trial attorney. A federal judge ordered the money seized after its discovery last year.

In July, a federal judge sentenced her sister to six months in prison Friday for lying to federal investigators searching for Parrett. Investigators said Linda Case had been communicating with Parrett by e-mail, but several times told deputy U.S. marshals she did not know where Parrett was and had not been in contact with her. They also said Case was arrested days before she had planned to leave for Mexico to be with Parrett.

Parrett was using a false name and telling others in Ajijica she fled the United States after testifying against lawyers who stole from pension funds, the government said Wednesday.

"During her time as a fugitive, Parrett was known to go out dancing in the resort area, and was believed to be receiving treatment from a Mexican anti-aging specialist," the government said.

Despite that carefree image, the criminal complaint against Parrett's sister also hinted at a woman struggling with her fugitive's existence.

"I have moved twice because of fear of someone recognizing me," Parrett told Case in a Sept. 21, 2009 e-mail.

Parrett also didn't have an ID of any kind, and discussed ways with her sister to get money, according to other e-mails. The search by U.S. marshals for Parrett involved more than a dozen states and several countries. The FBI had offered a reward of up to \$10,000 for her arrest. In January 2009 she was the featured fugitive on the "America's Most Wanted" Web site, <http://www.amw.com>.

"Even fugitives with great financial resources willing to flee the country for years as she did will always have to look over their shoulder," said U.S. Marshal Cathy Jones. □



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Budding Artists Join RBC/RBTT in Fight Against Children's Cancer

ORANJESTAD - Budding artists, aged 7 to 16 years, have joined RBC/RBTT's efforts to save Caribbean children diagnosed with cancer. More than 200 submissions were received from Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago for the RBC/RBTT Caribbean Children's Cancer Fund's first Regional Art Competition themed "Imagine a Caribbean Christmas". Over 23 entries were submitted in Aruba. The winning designs will be used to produce a package of Christmas cards for sale internationally to benefit the RBC/RBTT Caribbean Children's Cancer Fund which provides treatment for children with the disease. Entries have been adjudicated by a panel of judges and the winners will be presented with their awards at a prize-giving ceremony. The judges, art teachers, expressed satisfaction with the quality of the submissions. "The submissions were quite strong compositions, with several original concepts. Most impressive were the students' interpretations and representations of Christmas in the Caribbean, creatively depicting iconic elements of the season," they said. The Regional Art Competition is just one of the activities undertaken to raise funds for the RBC/RBTT Caribbean Children's Cancer Fund. Young persons under the age of 16 years in every Caribbean jurisdiction where RBC and RBTT operate can apply to receive assistance for diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Continued on Page A10

Global Customer Appreciation Week Celebrated At The Aruba Marriott Sales & Marketing Department Thanks Its Loyal Customers

PALM BEACH - In the week of October 18 - October 22, 2010 the Sales & Marketing department of the Aruba Marriott Resort celebrated their annual global customer appreciation week. This special week is an annual Marriott celebration worldwide, where all sales & marketing departments take the time to thank their loyal customers.

The Aruba sales team devoted their time to thank its loyal customers. Senior Sales Manager Chela de Lannoy and the hotel's executive team visited several local companies and thanked them with three exclusive home made desserts. Sales Manager Roosje Jacobs visited loyal customers in Buenos Aires, Argentina



and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Director of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg and Sales Coordinator Abigail van der Linden took the time to conduct sales calls calling other customers and thanking them for their business. In addition to the sales visits,

the sales & marketing team invited five most loyal local companies and three loyal Latin American travel agents to stay at the Aruba Marriott for the weekend to experience a weekend in paradise. The week of events ended on Friday afternoon with an intimate luncheon in the Grand

Ballroom. Together with the Romar Trading, Digicel, Aruba Trading, Medworks, Tera Group, Mikike and Protec, the Aruba Marriott donated food and health care products, clothing and even cell phones to the Fundacion pa nos Comunidad.

Continued on Page A11



Divi Timeshare Sales & Marketing Teams Enjoy a Fruitful Business Meeting



PALM BEACH – Staff members of Divi Timeshare Sales & Marketing divisions for both Divi Links, and Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, from Marketing to Administration convened for a general meeting under the leadership of Paula Smith, the Island's Director



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of Sales & Marketing, who was nicely supported by the executive team consisting of Mina Roberts, Christy Garrido, Richard Lopez Henriquez, Vincent Henry, Hubert Cunha, Nathalie Naar, Anouska Holiger and Undina Williamson.

The meeting acknowledged the contributions of all stake-holders in delivering a fantastic year so far, topped by the record-breaking months of August & September 2010. While in session, the teams were also given general information on ongoing projects and future initiatives as well as specific programs within the various departments in the Sales Organization.

Invited guest, Mark Steward VP of Sales & Marketing reports it was great having all staff members under one roof, acknowledging professional growth and mutual respect among friends and colleagues. □



Mambo Jambo is ready for Halloween on Saturday

ORANJESTAD - Saturday, October 30, is Halloween party night at Mambo Jambo downtown. But no ghoulish underworld creatures are attracting Halloween customers this year: no, the screams will be of delight, as entrance is free of charge and sexy girls are passing around free shots. Accompanying the rousing music by deejays X-ver, Konker and Brayen are beer specials and special bottle prices. The screaming will be of major fun, not of fright.

The Halloween party at Mambo Jambo, which is located in the Royal Plaza Mall, starts at 10 pm. □

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The Radisson Appreciates 253 Years of Experience



PALM BEACH – The Casino & Spa recently anniversaries during a Radisson Aruba Resort marked colleague festive luncheon catered by

the resort culinary team, and served in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom. The 3RD quarter anniversaries totaled

253 years of hospitality experience and awarded letter of appreciation and commemorative plaques. The ceremony was emceed by the Director of Human Resources Glenn Farro and the Director of Operations Bob Curtis. Those celebrating ten years at the resort included Teresa Durango, Errol da Costa, Jean-Pierre Colina, and Brigida Hernandez. Among fifteen year honorees Salvador Cabrera, Alvin Kross, Enrique Lacle, Mercedes Salazar, Soraida Werleman, Bibi Ohab, and Carol Polsbroek. Two very special individuals, Kenneth Lacle, and Alfredo Bermudez, were acknowledged for 20 years of service to the Grande Dame, Aruba's bastion of Genuine Hospitality. □



RBTT

Continued from Page A7

RBC/RBTT has partnered with the Cancer Treatment Foundation (CTF) to achieve this objective. RBC/RBTT has committed US\$200,000 a year up to 2013 towards the cost of medical treatment for Paediatric Cancer patients and RBC and RBTT employees across the region have held several fundraisers.

To date, the Cancer Fund has assisted five children. The first was a 16 year old boy from Grenada diagnosed with Lymphoma; the second, a two year old boy from Trinidad and Tobago diagnosed with liver cancer; a seven year old girl in the Bahamas with Osteogenic

Sarcoma, a common type of pediatric bone cancer was the third; and a 13 year old boy from Trinidad, received a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan to aid in diagnosis. A 16 year old girl from Dominica with Parosteal Osteosarcoma, a type of bone tumor, is now undergoing treatment.

The most recent application is for an 18-month old toddler from Grenada with Bladder Sarcoma.

Leukaemias and cancers of the brain and central nervous system account for more than half of childhood cancers. With early detection, recovery from common childhood cancers is good, with a cure rate of approximately 75%. □





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MARRIOTT

Continued from Page A7

Board member Daniel Tecklenborg was present together with Office Manager Ruth de Cuba of Fundacion nos Comunidad to receive the donation. The foundation was pleased and thankful with the donation and cooperation of the many local companies. The Marriott thanks its associates and companies that contributed to the Fundacion pa nos Comunidad.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico -- Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, INC. (NYSE:MAR) is a leading lodging company with more than 3,400 lodging properties in 68 countries and territories. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, USA and had approximately 137,000 employees at 2009 year-end. It is recognized by FORTUNE® as one of the best companies to work for, and by Newsweek as one of the greenest big companies in America. In fiscal year 2009, Marriott International reported sales from continuing operations of nearly \$11 billion. □

Marcel, Francis & Eleazer Honored at the Radisson



PALM BEACH -- Marcel Angela, from the Beverage Department nominated by Angelique Croes was named Colleague of the Month for July. Francis Wolff from the Accounting Department, nominated by Lidwina Rasmijn won the Colleague

of the Month distinction for August while Eleazer Clemencia, from the IT Department, nominated by Lourdes Geerman, received top honors for the month of September.

The announcement was made during community lunch at the

Grand Caribbean Ballroom. The winners for the quarterly awards were singled out and praised for their outstanding performances by their peers and by members of the resort management.

Marcel was lauded for his helpful attitude, and no-fuss approach to challenges. Always a hard worker, Marcel is very dedicated to his job, colleagues and guests. Francis was praised for his great sense of responsibility, his cooperation with superiors and colleagues, and for the utmost attention he pays to handling group billings, and assisting the income auditors. Eleazer was singled out for his readiness to help anytime, including weekends, and for being ever-available to troubleshoot and repair, willing to do his best to the company and his Radisson

family members.

Also nominated for their significant contributions for July: Liliana Garcia, Gilligan's Bar & Grill, nominated by Rudy Maduro; Hiram Zievinger, Sunset Grille, nominated by Rudy Maduro; Sheila Stamper, Concierge, nominated by Tasha Agana and Lutgarna Croes, Laguna Restaurant, nominated by David Coster. The nominees for August included Liliana Tromp, Laguna Restaurant, nominated by David Coster; Andrea Franken, Housekeeping, nominated by the entire Housekeeping team; Maudlyn Velaques, Larimar Spa, nominated by Albert Cruz; Albert Manuela, Sunset Grille, nominated by Ronni Maduro and Karminah Samingoen, Human Resources, nominated by Glenn Farro. In September Kendrick Tromp, Laguna Restaurant, nominated by David Coster distinguished himself above all others, joined by Milaine Jourdain, nominated by the entire Housekeeping team; Henri Harkin, Engineering, nominated by Marciano Geerman; Teresa Durango, Larimar Spa, nominated by Albert Cruz; Fernando Gomez, Stewarding, nominated by Gerard Coste and Afroze Khan, Concierge, nominated by Germaine Wever.

Pictured here, the award celebration and presentation. □



NESTOR KIRCHNER**Continued from Front Page**

He was accompanied at all times by his wife, the presidency said.

Kirchner, 60, had undergone an angioplasty after a heart attack in September, but was still a likely candidate in next year's presidential elections. He also served as secretary general of the South American alliance known as Unasur, as a congressman and as leader of the Peronist party.

The news shocked Argentines, who by law were staying at home Wednesday to be counted. Kirchner's supporters planned a mass gathering for Wednesday night outside the Casa Rosada, Argentina's presidential palace. Already, dozens of Argentines showed up in the Plaza de Mayo before the palace, standing silently in mourning.

"There will be a demonstration to honor Kirchner and to show Cristina that we're with her, supporting her," said the leader of the Evita Movement, Emilio Persico. "In these days we'll be demonstrating in the streets that we are millions who will replace Kirchner."

After an intimate ceremony in El Calafate, his body was being flown to Buenos Aires to lay in state in the palace, where a vigil was to begin at noon on Thursday.

Kirchner worked hand-in-hand with his wife to maintain the ruling party's hold on power. Even more than Fernandez, he was seen as the heir to Argentine strongman Juan Domingo Peron and one of the few people capable of managing Argentina's unruly and chaotic political scene.

It was Kirchner who did the hard work of managing relationships with labor unions, activist groups, governors and mayors — the political players who move thousands of voters and whose allegiance is vital to maintaining public order.

With him gone, Fernandez is likely to face many new threats to her leadership.

Argentina's most powerful union leader, Hugo Moyano, quickly expressed his

allegiance, ordering an emergency board meeting of the General Labor Confederation, or CGT.

"We will express our total support for the tenure of Cristina Kirchner so that the political and economic model her husband began in 2003 goes forward."

Under the Kirchners, Argentina abandoned the "Washington consensus" of tight fiscal policies and free trade, isolating the country from foreign debt markets and imposing stringent controls on the flow of money and goods in and out of the country.

Within hours of his death, credit markets were betting that Argentina will be more trustworthy. The cost of buying insurance on Argentine debt dropped 0.5 percent Wednesday afternoon, according to CMA Datavision, and shares of Argentine-based companies trading in New York surged despite a broad retreat of U.S. stocks.

"The Kirchner family has been relatively tough for investors," said Paul Herber, portfolio manager of the Forward Frontier Market Strat Fund. He said short-term investor sentiment will improve because without Kirchner in next year's presidential race, someone with more favorable policies toward investing may be elected.

Juan Carlos Dante Gullo, a ruling party congressman, said "this will leave a huge hole in Argentine politics. We will have to follow his example. Argentina has lost one of its greatest men."

The leader of the human rights group Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Estela de Carlotto, said Kirchner "gave his life for his country." "Our country needed this man so much. He was indispensable," she told radio Continental.

Kirchner served as president from 2003-2007, bringing Argentina out of severe economic crisis and encouraging judicial changes that set in motion dozens of human rights trials involving hundreds of dictatorship-era figures who had previously benefited from an amnesty.



In this Aug. 6, 2010 file photo, Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) Secretary General Nestor Kirchner, second from left, speaks with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, right, at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela. According to state television in Argentina, Nestor Kirchner died on Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010 of a heart attack at age 60.

Associated Press

As secretary general of the Union of South American Republics, or Unasur, Kirchner mediated one of the many border disputes between Venezuela and Colombia.

Both countries' leaders mourned his loss on Wednesday.

"Oh my dear Cristina... how sad! What a huge loss suffered by Argentina and our America! May Kirchner live forever!" Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez tweeted.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos asked for a moment of silence in Bogota in Kirchner's honor.

"It's a great loss for Argentina and a great loss for the continent," he said, adding that he would try to reach Fernandez to share his condolences.

U.S. President Barack Obama also praised Kirchner's significant roles in Argentina and Unasur. "Michelle's and my thoughts and prayers are with President Fernandez de Kirchner and their children," he said.

Born in the Patagonian province of Santa Cruz, Kirchner and his wife were active in the Young Peronists party as students in La Plata, where he graduated in 1976. With the military firmly

ruling the country, the young couple married and worked as private attorneys in the provincial capital, raising two children — Maximo and Florencia. After democracy returned in 1983, Kirchner entered public service, first as the provincial pensions chief, and then as mayor of Rio Gallegos.

In 1991, he became Santa Cruz's governor and Fernandez was elected to the provincial legislature, pushing through indefinite re-election and filling the provincial courts with sympathetic judges. In 1995 he was re-elected as governor by an overwhelming margin, laying the groundwork for a jump to politics at the national level.

When the country suffered economic crisis and a world-record default in 2001, political unrest and street protests kept a series of presidents from serving out their terms and forced a new election in 2003.

Kirchner, then still a little-known provincial governor, was the choice of outgoing president Eduardo Duhalde, but earned just 22 percent of the vote, trailing former president Carlos Menem with 24 percent in the first round. After polls then showed Kirchner winning

overwhelmingly in a runoff election, Menem dropped out and Kirchner became president-elect.

During his presidency, Kirchner managed Argentina's economic recovery, with growth of 8 percent a year, but maintained a frosty relationship with international lenders and forced the holders of Argentina's bad debt to accept much less than what they had invested for the bonds.

His detractors say the growth resulted from global trends and the combination of depressed salaries and high international prices for the grains that are Argentina's main exports.

Outside the palace Wednesday, people hung handwritten signs on the palace fence. "Thank you Nestor. You put Argentina on its feet.

We'll miss you," one read. Another, on note paper, said "Be strong Cristina."

"We're here to support Cristina," said Claudia Farias, who had just arrived from Argentina's northern Santiago del Estero province when word spread of Kirchner's death. "She's going to need our help to keep the country moving forward, God willing." □

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Death toll in Indonesian tsunami, volcano tops 300

**ACHMAD IBRAHIM
SLAMET RIYADI**

Associated Press

MENTAWAI ISLANDS, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll from a tsunami and a volcano rose to more than 300 Wednesday as more victims of Indonesia's double disasters were found and an official said a warning system installed after a deadly ocean wave in 2004 had broken from a lack of maintenance.

Hundreds were still missing after Monday's tsunami struck the remote Mentawi islands off western Sumatra, where officials were only beginning to chart the scope of the devastation. At least 311 people died as the huge wave, triggered by an undersea earthquake, washed away wooden and bamboo homes, displacing more than 20,000 people.

About 800 miles to the east in central Java, the Mount Merapi volcano was mostly quiet but still a threat after Tuesday's eruption that sent searing ash clouds into the air, killing at least 30 people and injuring 17. Among the dead was a revered elder who had refused to leave his ceremonial post as caretaker of the mountain's spirits.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono rushed home from a state visit to Vietnam to deal with the catastrophes, which struck within 24 hours along different points of the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a series of fault lines prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.

The first cargo plane loaded with tents, medicine, food and clothes landed Wednesday in the tsunami-hit area, said disaster official Ade Edward. Huge swaths of land were underwater and homes were torn apart by the 10-foot wave

that hit Pagai Utara island in the Indian Ocean south of Sumatra. One house lay tilted, resting on the edge of its red roof, with tires and slabs of concrete piled up on the surrounding sand.

Hundreds of homes were washed away in about 20 villages, displacing more than 20,000 people, Edward said. Many were seeking shelter in makeshift emergency camps or with family and friends.

Vice President Boediono toured devastated villages on Pagai Utara and met with survivors and local officials, his office said. At one point, he paused solemnly in front of several corpses in body bags.

The charity SurfAid International is getting "grim news" from village contacts, said Andrew Judge, head of the group founded by surfers who have been helping deliver aid. He said he is hearing of "more death, large numbers of deaths in some villages."

With the arrival of help, Edward said officials "finally ... have a chance now to look for more than 400 still missing."

Officials prepared for the worst, sending hundreds of body bags, said Mujiharto, head of the Health Ministry's crisis center.

The islands lie close to the epicenter of the 7.7-magnitude quake that struck late Monday beneath the ocean floor. The fault line on Sumatra island's coast is the same one that caused the 2004 quake and tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean.

After that monster wave, many countries set up early warning systems in their waters hoping to give people time to flee to higher ground before a tsunami — which can



A rescue worker searches for victims of Tuesday's eruption of Mount Merapi, seen in the background, at a village that was hit by pyroclastic flows in Kinahrejo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010. The volcanic eruption and a tsunami killed scores of people hundreds of miles apart in Indonesia, spasms from the Pacific "Ring of Fire," which spawns disasters from deep within the Earth.

travel hundreds of miles — crashed ashore.

Indonesia's version, completed in 2008 with German aid, has since fallen into such disrepair that it effectively stopped working about a month ago, according to the head of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

The system, which uses buoys to electronically detect sudden changes in water level, worked when it was completed, but by 2009 routine tests of it were showing problems, said the agency chief, who uses the single name Fauzi. By last month, he said, the entire system was broken because of inexperienced operators.

"We do not have the expertise to monitor the buoys to function as intended," he said. As a result, he said, not a single siren sounded after Monday's quake. It was unclear if any sirens could have made a difference, since the islands

worst affected were so close to the epicenter that the tsunami would have reached them within minutes.

The group that set up the system, the Germany-Indonesia agency Tsunami Early Warning System (GITEWS), could not be reached for comment Wednesday, but the questions Fauzi raised highlighted the difficulty for a poor country such as Indonesia in disaster prevention and response.

On the ash-covered slopes of Mount Merapi, authorities continued a search for more victims. Dr. Teguh Dwi Santosa, who works at a local hospital, said the death toll had climbed to 30.

The eruption sent thousands streaming into makeshift emergency shelters, although the ash did not disrupt flights over Indonesia. About 36,000 people have been evacuated, according to the Indonesian

Associated Press

Red Cross.

Some defied authorities and returned home to check on crops and possessions left behind. More than 11,000 people live on Merapi's fertile slopes.

Tuesday's blast eased pressure that had been building behind a lava dome on the crater. Experts warned that the dome could still collapse, causing an avalanche of the blistering gas and debris trapped beneath it.

"It's a little calmer today," said Surono, the chief of Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation. "But a lot of energy is pent up back there. There's no telling what's next."

The volcano, whose name means "Fire Mountain," has erupted many times in the last 200 years. In 1994, 60 people were killed, while in 1930 more than a dozen villages were incinerated, leaving up to 1,300 dead. □

Bin Laden warns France over Afghan war, veil ban



This image made from video broadcast on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2001 shows Osama bin Laden at an undisclosed location. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden threatened in a new audio tape, posted on Al-Jazeera's website Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, to kill French citizens to avenge their country's support for the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan and a new law that will ban face-covering Muslim veils. The authenticity of the tape could not be immediately verified but the voice resembled that of the terrorist group leader on previous tapes determined to be genuine.

Associated Press

MAAMOUN YOUSSEF

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden threatens in a new audio tape to kill French citizens to avenge their country's support for the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan and a new law that will ban face-covering Muslim veils. In the tape obtained by satellite television station Al-Jazeera and then posted on its website on Wednesday, bin Laden said France was aiding the Americans in the killing of Muslim women and children in an apparent reference to the war in Afghanistan. He said the kidnapping of five

French citizens in the African nation of Niger last month was a reaction to what he called France's oppression of Muslims.

"How can it be right that you participate in the occupation of our lands, support the Americans in the killing of our women and children and yet want to live in peace and security?" said bin Laden, addressing the French.

"It is a simple and clear equation: As you kill, you will be killed. As you capture, you will be captured. And as you threaten our security, your security will be threatened. The way to

safeguard your security is to cease your oppression and its impact on our nation, most importantly your withdrawal from the ill-fated Bush war in Afghanistan."

The authenticity of the tape could not be immediately verified but the voice resembled that of the terror group leader on previous tapes determined to be genuine.

French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux told the parliament hours after the message was posted that the risk of a terror attack against the country was real and authorities' vigilance is "total," according to a report on newspaper El Figaro's website.

But he added that the threats "would merely fit into the pattern of different threats that have already been made against our country and our citizens, at home and abroad. It currently appears that these comments don't do more than justify our keeping up our response in the face of the terrorist threat."

Tapes by bin Laden and his top lieutenant, Egyptian-born Ayman al-Zawahri, have recently been posted on Al-Jazeera website rather than on sites run by militant Muslims as has been done for years. The shift appears to reflect the unexplained technical difficulties or closures experienced by the militant sites in recent months.

France has about 4,000

troops deployed in and near Afghanistan.

"You need to think of what happened to America as a result of that unjust war," bin Laden said, again addressing the French and referring to the war in Afghanistan. "It's on the verge of bankruptcy ... and tomorrow it will retreat to beyond the Atlantic."

France passed a law this month that will ban the wearing of face-covering burqa-style Muslim veils in public starting in April. Many Muslims have expressed fears the law would stigmatize them.

"If you deemed it your right to ban (Muslim) women from wearing the hijab, then should not it be our right to expel your invading men by striking their necks?" bin Laden said.

Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, an offshoot of bin Laden's group, has claimed responsibility for the abductions of five French citizens in Niger and is believed to have taken them to neighboring Mali. The French hostages, as well as a Togolese and a Madagascar national were kidnapped on Sept. 16 while they were sleeping in their villas in the uranium mining town of Arlit.

"The kidnapping of your experts in the Niger is a reaction to your oppression of Muslims," said bin Laden.

Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb grew out of an Islamist insurgency movement

in Algeria, merging with al-Qaida in 2006 and spreading through the Sahara and the arid Sahel region. It has increasingly been targeting French interests.

In July, the group said it executed a 78-year-old French aid worker it had taken hostage three months before. It said the killing was retaliation for the deaths of six al-Qaida members in a French-backed military operation against the group.

Also in July, the French military said it provided technical and logistical assistance to help Mauritanian forces thwart an attack by suspected al-Qaida members in northwest Africa. It said the operation left six extremists dead.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy later described that operation as a "turning point" and said France would provide training, equipment and intelligence to local troops working to fight militants in the Sahel.

A series of warnings has put France and other European countries on high alert in recent weeks, prompting the U.S. State Department to advise American citizens living or traveling in Europe to take more precautions. Speculation on the source of a potential terror threat in France has focused on al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. □

Crowd attacks U.N. investigators in Beirut

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A crowd "violently attacked" a team of U.N. investigators gathering evidence Wednesday in the death of a former Lebanese prime minister and stole several items from them, authorities said.

The two investigators and an interpreter received medical attention, according to a statement from the prosecutor's office at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The melee at a private clinic in Beirut underscored the charged emotions behind the international tribunal looking into Rafik Hariri's 2005 assassination, and it raised concerns about intimidation and interference in the probe.

"Those who carried out this attack must know that violence will not deter the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, a court of law, from fulfilling its mandate," said a statement from the tribunal's

president, Judge Antonio Cassese.

The Hague-based court said the visit had been arranged in advance "in accordance with legal safeguards" and that members of the judicial police and the army accompanied the investigators.

"During the meeting, a large group of people showed up unexpectedly and violently attacked the investigators and their female interpreter," the statement said. The Lebanese army "extracted" the staffers and they received medical attention.

The statement also said several items were stolen, but it did not elaborate.

The tribunal has not yet indicted any suspects in the assassination, but speculation that the court could name members of the Hezbollah militant group has raised fears of violence between the heavily armed Shiite guerrilla force and Hariri's mainly Sunni allies. □



Lebanese Dr. Iman Sharara speaks to journalists in her clinic, south of Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010. Sharara says dozens of women have stormed her clinic as international investigators were visiting her, asking for some of her patients telephone numbers.

Associated Press

Nigeria: Weapons seizure included artillery rockets

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Artillery rockets like those often used by insurgents in Afghanistan were found to have filled an illegal arms shipment intercepted at Nigeria's busiest cargo port, raising security questions about the oil-rich nation before its upcoming presidential election.

Officials allowed journalists visiting the holding yard just inside of the port's main gate Wednesday to see the 107 mm rockets, rifle rounds and other weapons seized at Apapa Port. Authorities said the shipment also contained grenades, explosives and possibly rocket launchers, but journalists did not see them.

Nigerian National Security Adviser Andrew Owoye Azazi declined to say what ship carried the weapons into the port. He said the federal government would destroy them "We don't want to make any conclusions about what threat they offer, where they are going (or) where they're coming from," Azazi told journalists. "Let's not jump to conclusions." Authorities said the weapons were in a shipment whose manifest labeled the goods as building materials. As officials opened new containers, they pulled away yellow insulation and plastic to reach the individual crates. Broken floor tiles littered the ground.

Such 107 mm artillery rockets are manufactured by China, Iran and Russia, as well as the United States. The rockets can be fired from launchers with multiple rockets, or individually as a mortar. The rounds seen at the port bore English words, but no information about the manufacturer.

In the hands of highly trained troops, the rockets can accurately hit targets as far as eight and a half kilometers away, killing everything within about 40 feet. Fighters in Afghanistan and Iraq have used similar rockets against U.S. troops.

Such rockets could be used against oil pipelines, refineries or residential compounds occupied by foreign petroleum company employees throughout Nigeria's crude-rich southern delta. They also could be used against Army barracks and other targets.

Militants in the Niger Delta, upset by the region's endemic poverty after 50 years of crude production and pollution, have attacked government troops and oil company targets since 2006. A recent amnesty has brought an uneasy peace to the area.

"This is the first time we've seen anything like this being brought in," said Peter Sharwood-Smith, Nigeria country manager for security firm Drum Cussac. "We haven't seen mortars used, we haven't any sort of artillery used and we haven't seen rockets used. So it's a new thing."

The seizure is a troubling sign in Africa's most populous nation, coming less than a month after a car bombing targeting the country's independence celebrations killed at least 12 people. With Nigeria approaching what could be a hotly contested presidential election next year, the nation continues to see targeted killings allegedly committed by a radical Islamic sect and the threat of new violence in the Niger Delta.

The shipment also raised questions about the possible involvement of former militant and alleged arms dealer Henry Okah. Okah faces terrorism charges in South Africa; authorities say he masterminded the Oct. 1 bombing and served as the de facto voice of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, or MEND, the region's main militant group. MEND has claimed responsibility for the car bombing.

Okah has denied the charges and has said he did not write MEND communiques under the nom de guerre of Jomo Gbomo. □



A Nigerian soldier, right, gestures as he and others show journalist arms at Lagos, Nigeria, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010. Artillery rockets like those often used by insurgents in Afghanistan were inside an illegal arms shipment seized by authorities in Nigeria. Authorities showed the weaponry to journalists Wednesday at Lagos' busy Apapa Port.

Associated Press

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND

OCTOBER 30 SATURDAY

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Court: No need for fresh elections in Antigua



Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer of Antigua and Barbuda, addresses the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters Monday, Sept. 27, 2010.

Associated Press

ANIKA KENTISH

Associated Press

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — A Caribbean appeals court ruled Wednesday that Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister and two other ruling-party lawmakers were properly elected last year, apparently ending attempts to call fresh elections.

The Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal overturned an Antigua High Court judge's decision earlier this year voiding March 2009 election results in three constituencies, including Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer's St. John district.

The appeals court, which issued the decision in St. Lucia, has final say on electoral issues in nine former or current British territories in the region.

Spencer declared victory and said "legal recourse in this matter has now been exhausted and the country can and must now return to a state of calm and certainty."

Opposition chief Lester Bird had accused Spencer of being a "squatter" in the government and insisted the ruling lawmakers were improperly elected, largely due to the late start of voting in their districts.

"I am deeply disappointed at the decision of the appeal court," said Bird on Wednesday, adding the ruling has undermined his confidence in the regional justice system.

Dozens of partisans who gathered outside the Labor Party's headquarters in St. John's in anticipation of the ruling were

visibly dejected.

Losing three seats would have left Spencer's governing coalition tied with the opposition in Parliament. Last year's election gave Spencer's party nine of Parliament's 17 seats, down from 12 in the previous assembly. The Barbuda People's Movement, which is allied with Spencer, also won a seat, while the opposition Labor Party got seven. The country has been struggling with a budget gap worsened by a drop in tourism and the collapse of R. Allen Stanford's Antigua-based financial empire. The Texas financier helped fund the government and was the country's largest private employer until U.S. authorities accused him of defrauding investors in his offshore bank. □

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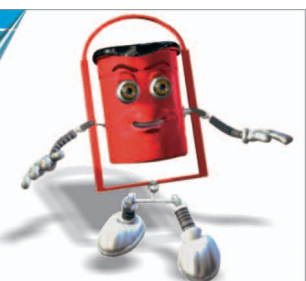
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Germany's Martin Kaymer poses with the trophy after his victory during the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews Golf Course, Scotland, Sunday Oct. 10, 2010.

Associated Press

Kaymer can overtake Woods

at No. 1 with win

VALDERRAMA, Spain (AP) — Martin Kaymer is downplaying thoughts of replacing Tiger Woods as the world's top-ranked golfer if he can finish high in the Andalucia Masters starting on Thursday at Valderrama.

Kaymer will end Woods' five-year run as No. 1 if he wins the tournament or if he finishes in second place tied with no more than one other player. But no matter the result in southern Spain on Sunday, Woods' reign will end.

If Kaymer does not finish high enough, Lee Westwood will replace Woods even though both aren't in action this week, because the Englishman's average of ranking points gained over the past two years will go above Woods' on Monday.

Continued on Next Page



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WORLD SERIES BEGINS



THE HEAT IS ...OFF!

Miami Heat's Chris Bosh, left, Dwyane Wade (3), and LeBron James react to a call during the second half of the Boston Celtics' 88-80 win in an NBA basketball game in Boston on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010.

Associated Press
Page B3

STUNNER

Samantha Stosur from Australia reacts during the match against Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki on the 2nd day of Qatar WTA Tennis Championship in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010.

Associated Press
Page B7



Jim Courier picked to lead U.S. Davis Cup team



This Jan. 29, 2010, file photo shows Jim Courier gesturing at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia. Four-time Grand Slam champion Courier was hired by the U.S. Tennis Association to lead the country's Davis Cup team, replacing Patrick McEnroe, who resigned last month.

Associated Press

HOWARD FENDRICH Four-time Grand Slam
AP Tennis Writer champion Jim Courier was
WASHINGTON (AP) — hired Wednesday by the

KAYMER

Continued from Page B1

Kaymer says his priority all year has been on winning Europe's second Race to Dubai money list.

It's within the grasp of the 25-year-old German.

With five events remaining on the European Tour, Kaymer has a €995,561 lead over Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell in the money list.

"I know that I can become No. 1 this weekend," he said. "But for me at the moment it's just important that I play well and win the Race to Dubai. And I don't want to change my goal in the middle of the season."

"My most important goals are to win tournaments like majors and World Championship events, because if you do that and play well then almost automatically you will become No. 1 eventually. "Yes, if I could win here in Spain at the weekend and become No. 1 in the world then fantastic. But it is not a priority." Kaymer, who won his first major at the U.S. PGA Championship, disputes whether he deserves the ranking more than Westwood despite his recent run of winning three straight strokeplay tournaments.

"Lee is the best player in the world right now," he said. "If he had not been injured in recent months he would probably be world No. 1 by now. "Who deserves it right now? That's difficult to say because both Lee and me have played fantastic golf this year and he deserves it as much as me."

McDowell, the U.S. Open champion, is at Valderrama with his own Race to Dubai ambition. That gives the new tournament in Spain two major champions in the field chasing the €500,000 (\$690,000) first prize. However, even if Kaymer wins his fourth straight strokeplay event in Spain to add to the U.S. PGA, Dutch Open and Dunhill Links titles, the Race to Dubai will not be settled until next month. □

U.S. Tennis Association to lead the country's Davis Cup team, replacing former captain Patrick McEnroe, who resigned last month.

Saying he wanted to dedicate time to his family and his other jobs, McEnroe abruptly announced during the U.S. Open — where Courier was working as a television analyst — that he was stepping down. Within less than an hour of McEnroe's departure being reported, Courier said on TV that he would be interested in leading the team.

"I was kind of put on the spot by my colleague Ian Eagle at the U.S. Open," Courier said Wednesday during a news conference in New York. "I hope I handled it OK. I didn't want to be seen as grandstanding or lobbying too hard for the position."

"I've always known, once I got a taste of playing Davis Cup, if I were given an opportunity to be the captain, I would certainly want to take it," Courier said.

Andy Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open champion and highest-ranked American

man, tweeted: "jim courier new davis cup captain.... great choice!"

Courier said Roddick told him he was committed to playing Davis Cup next year, having taken a break from the competition this season.

McEnroe served as United States captain for 10 years, winning the 2007 Davis Cup to end the country's 12-year drought.

As a player, Courier helped the United States win the Davis Cup in 1992 and 1995, and he finished with a 16-10 record in singles, 1-0 in doubles.

Known for his big groundstrokes and white baseball cap, Courier was No. 1 in the ATP rankings for 58 weeks in 1992-93. He won the French Open in 1991 and 1992, and the Australian Open in 1992 and 1993, and played in three other Grand Slam finals, part of a phenomenal generation of U.S. tennis talent that also included Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang.

Agassi called Courier an "inspired choice" as captain. "Jim has the experience,

integrity and focus needed to bring the U.S. Davis Cup to new heights," Agassi said in a statement Wednesday. "I know first hand that a man with Jim's credentials as a warrior and a champion will bring out the best in our players and our fans." The 40-year-old Courier retired from the professional tour in 2000 and was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2005. On the day he resigned, McEnroe mentioned Courier and 1999 U.S. Open runner-up Todd Martin as clear candidates for the position. The USTA also considered 1996 Wimbledon runner-up MaliVai Washington.

Courier's 2011 debut as Davis Cup captain will come in the first round at Chile on March 4-6. If the Americans win, they would face Spain or Belgium in the July 8-10 quarterfinals.

In McEnroe's final series, the United States beat host Colombia 3-1 in September to remain in the World Group, the competition's top tier.

The Americans have won the Davis Cup a record 32 times. □

Bonds wants to share hitting tips as coach



Former San Francisco Giants player Barry Bonds acknowledges the crowd before throwing out a ceremonial first pitch before Game 3 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the Philadelphia Phillies Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, in San Francisco

Associated Press

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO —

Barry Bonds broke Mark McGwire's single-season home run record. Now he wants to follow Big Mac into the coaching profession some day. Bonds spoke just outside the San Francisco Giants' clubhouse before Game 1 of the World Series against the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night.

"I love being home. I love being here," he said.

When asked if he'd like to do more than just cheer on his former team in the future, Bonds said he would be interested in becoming a hitting coach in the future.

"I have a gift and sooner or later I have to give it away," Bonds said. "I have to share it. Hopefully I'll get the opportunity here."

Bonds broke McGwire's single-season home run record

with 73 in 2001 and went on to surpass Hank Aaron's career mark of 755 in his final season in 2007. The seven-time NL MVP hit 762 career home runs.

McGwire, who retired in 2001, returned to the game this season, back in uniform as hitting coach for the St. Louis Cardinals. The team announced earlier this week that he would be back for a second season.

Before the start of his first spring training as a coach, McGwire ended years of denials and a self-imposed exile by admitting that he had used steroids and human growth hormone on and off for a decade, starting before the 1990 season and including when he broke Roger Maris' single-season home run record in 1998. □

NBA Roundup

Celtics beat new-look Heat

BOSTON (AP) — LeBron James scored 31 points, but the other members of Miami's new All-Star trio struggled as the Heat lost 88-80 to the Boston Celtics in Tuesday's NBA season opener.

Dwyane Wade was limited to 13 points on 4-of-16 shooting and Chris Bosh added just eight points and eight rebounds. The star trio combined for 15 of the Heat's 17 turnovers — eight by James, six by Wade and one by Bosh.

Ray Allen led Boston with 20 points, Paul Pierce scored 19 and Kevin Garnett had 10 points and 10 rebounds. Those

three joined together in 2007 and led the Celtics to the NBA title that season — providing the model for what Miami is trying to achieve this season. Boston led 16-9 after one quarter, the first time since March 15, 2009 that the Heat scored nine points or fewer in a period.

Lakers 112, Rockets 110

In Los Angeles, newcomer Steve Blake hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 18.8 seconds left as Los Angeles opened the defense of its back-to-back NBA titles with a victory over Houston. Kobe Bryant scored 27 points, while Pau Gasol

had 29 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who hung the golden banner celebrating their 16th NBA championship and handed out their rings in a pregame ceremony.

The champs then fell behind by 15 points before rallying for a fourth-quarter lead behind Shannon Brown's 3-point barrage.

The lead changed hands four times in the final minute, but Houston's Luis Scola missed a difficult scoop shot with 3 seconds left, and Aaron Brooks' layup attempt at the buzzer was blocked.

Trail Blazers 106, Suns 92

Argentina calls off all weekend matches

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The Argentine Football Association has called off all of the country's matches this weekend following the death Wednesday of former president Nestor Kirchner.

An AFA spokesman said Wednesday all matches from the first division to lower semi-professional leagues would be suspended, including 10 games in the top flight involving high-profile clubs like River Plate and Boca Juniors. It was not clear when the first-division games would now be played.

Kirchner, the husband of current Argentina President Cristina Fernandez, died Wednesday after suffering a heart attack. He was a likely candidate in next year's presidential elections.

"This weekend no official games will be played at any level of the Argentine

Football Association," the AFA said in a statement.

Argentine athletes from Lionel Messi to former Wimbledon champion David Nalbandian sent messages of condolence.

"Lionel Messi and family together with the Leo Messi Foundation wish to express their profound grief in the death of Nestor Kirchner, and we they share in the sadness and are with President Cristina Fernandez and all of her family," Messi said in a statement.

Added Nalbandian in a statement: "My sincere condolences to the president and the Kirchner family at this moment."

Similar messages were sent by San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili and Sergio Aguero, striker with football club Atletico de Madrid. □



Boston Celtics guard Nate Robinson, left, drives to the basket past Miami Heat forward LeBron James, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

In Portland, Nicolas Batum scored 19 points, including three late 3-pointers, and had 11 rebounds to lead Portland to a season-opening victory over Phoenix.

Brandon Roy scored 24 points for the Blazers, who fell to the Suns in the first round of the playoffs last season.

Steve Nash had 26 points for the Suns, who trailed most of the first half before going ahead in the third quarter.

Scores were locked 86-86 with 8:15 to go. Batum hit a 3-pointer and a jumper to make it 97-91 with 3:14 left, and sank two further long shots. □



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NHL Roundup

Bobby Ryan leads Ducks over Stars

DALLAS (AP) — Bobby Ryan scored twice as the Anaheim Ducks beat the Dallas Stars 5-2 in the NHL on Tuesday.

Jonas Hiller made 35 saves for Anaheim, while Teemu Selanne scored his 611th NHL goal, breaking a tie with Bobby Hull to assume sole possession of 15th place on the all-time list. Selanne also had an assist to give him 801 points with the Ducks.

Corey Perry also scored, and enforcer George Parros notched a rare goal as Anaheim wrapped up a 2-2 road trip.

Loui Eriksson and Brian Sutherby scored for the Stars, who have managed only two goals in two games.

Canucks 4, Avalanche 3, OT In Vancouver, Mason Raymond scored on a lucky bounce 28 seconds into overtime and Vancouver recovered from blowing a late lead to beat Colorado.

Peter Schaefer's first goal in 2½ years put Vancouver ahead five minutes into the third period, but Colorado's Matt Duchene tied it with 1:33 left in regulation.

Vancouver's Jeff Tambellini also scored for the second straight game since being moved up to the top line, and Ryan Kesler added a power-play goal for the Canucks, who are unbeaten in five games at home,

David Jones and Daniel Winnik also had goals for the Avalanche, which dropped its third straight. It also lost No. 1 goalie Craig Anderson to a knee injury during the pregame warmup.

Colorado's John-Michael Liles set the NHL record for defenseman by notching at least one assist in each of the first nine games.

Maple Leafs 3, Panthers 1

In Toronto, the hosts beat Florida, with enforcer Colton Orr scoring the winning goal after knocking over goalie Scott Clemmensen.

The teams were locked in a

tight-checking game until Orr netted the decisive goal with 8:58 left. After slamming into Clemmensen, Orr tipped a shot from linemate Tim Brent into the wide open net. Clemmensen argued his case with the referee to no avail.

Tyler Bozak and Phil Kessel also scored for the Maple Leafs.

Dennis Wideman had the sole goal for Florida.

In Philadelphia, the home team survived a third-period flurry to beat Buffalo.

Jeff Carter scored a goal and had two assists, while Danny Briere and Claude Giroux each added a goal and an assist for Philadelphia.

Nikolay Zherdev, Darroll Powe and Andreas Nodl also scored for the Flyers.

Buffalo's Thomas Vanek scored in the first period, and Tyler Myers and Steve Montador added goals in the third for the Sabres.

Flames 5, Oilers 4, SO

In Calgary, the hosts made it five wins in six games by beating Edmonton in a shootout.

Brendan Morrison scored two goals and Alex Tanguay netted the shootout winner for Calgary.

The Flames looked to be in control when they built a 4-1 late in the second period, but the Oilers forced overtime with a furious comeback.

Miikka Kiprusoff stopped Ales Hemsy, Jordan Eberle and Dustin Penner in the shootout to secure the Flames' third straight win.

Jay Bouwmeester and Curtis Glencross also scored regulation goals for Calgary.

Kurtis Foster, Jordan Eberle, Magnus Paajarvi and Tom Gilbert had goals for the Oilers, who are winless in their past five.

Senators 5, Coyotes 2

In Ottawa, Alex Kovalev combined with Erik Karlsson for the fastest two goals in Ottawa history, leading the Senators past Phoenix.

Karlsson and Kovalev scored



Anaheim Ducks defenseman Toni Lydman (32), of Finland, right winger Bobby Ryan, right winger Teemu Selanne (8), of Finland, and center Ryan Getzlaf (15) celebrate Selanne's goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Dallas Stars in Dallas, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010. Anaheim won 5-2. It was Selanne's 611th NHL goal.

Associated Press

9 seconds apart in the first period to break the previous team record by 1 second. Karlsson's goal was still being announced when Kovalev made it 2-0, breaking a modern franchise record set

15 years earlier.

Kovalev scored twice and added an assist, while Chris Kelly also netted for Ottawa. Sami Lepisto and Keith Yandle got goals for Phoenix, which has lost three in a row.

In NHL games it Calgary 5, Edmonton 4, SO; Toronto 3, Florida 1; Philadelphia 6, Buffalo 3; Ottawa 5, Phoenix 2; Anaheim 5, Dallas 2; and Vancouver 4, Colorado 3, OT.

Gordon in AARP 'Drive to End Hunger' campaign

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CONCORD, N.C. — Rick Hendrick never panicked as the season stretched on and he still didn't have a sponsorship deal for Jeff Gordon.

Why? Because he always had a contingency plan to fall back on. It gave him the ability to be discerning when it came to the four-time NASCAR champion.

Then came the potential pairing with the AARP Foundation, which began talks on a sponsorship program with Hendrick Motorsports in September. The deal quickly fell into place, and the foundation's "Drive to End Hunger" campaign was announced Wednesday as Gordon's primary sponsor for the next three years.

"We had a deal in our pocket. It was a verbal agreement," Hendrick said of the second suitor, which he refused to identify. "But this one came only faster, quicker and had more potential."

More potential for both sides.

The cause-related sponsorship is the first of its kind to step in as primary sponsor for a major race team. It's a good fit for Hendrick, who has devoted a considerable amount of time and money to charitable causes.

The American Association of Retired Persons plans to use its sponsorship to raise both money and awareness of hunger in America.

Statistics given by AARP on Wednesday said an estimated 51 million Americans who go hungry each night, and six million are over the age of 60.

Jo Ann Jenkins, president of the AARP Foundation, said the numbers are startling to most Americans, and a the partnership with Gordon should lead to increased donations. But earning charitable donations from NASCAR fans — according to demographics released by NASCAR in 2007, 53 percent of its fan base have an average income of below \$50,000 — could be difficult as they still try to recover from the recession.

Jenkins said the typical donation to the AARP Foundation is small, in the \$10-to-\$20 range, and the investment on Gordon's car will pay for itself.

Jenkins would not disclose how much the AARP Foundation is paying, but the sponsorship is for 22 races next year beginning with the Daytona 500. The industry going rate is estimated to be \$15 million for a full 36-race schedule, and Budweiser is believed to have paid \$10 million for 22 races with Richard Childress Racing beginning next season.

"I don't think we have any doubt in our mind that the initial investment the AARP has put into this, the money raised from this is going to far exceed that investment," Jenkins said.

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Alex Smith out for 49ers, Troy Smith in vs Broncos

By MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON – With quarterback Alex Smith ruled out because of a separated shoulder, San Francisco 49ers head coach Mike Singletary is gambling on Troy Smith being able to turn his struggling team around.

Singletary said Wednesday the former Heisman Trophy winner will get his first NFL start in three years after Alex Smith was ruled out for 2 to 3 weeks with a separated left shoulder. The Niners play the Denver Broncos at London's Wembley Stadium on Sunday. Singletary picked the former Ohio State standout ahead of David Carr, who came on against Carolina after Alex Smith was injured on Sunday but threw a costly late interception that led to the winning field goal for the Panthers.

"Troy Smith gives us a good opportunity to win this game," Singletary said. "I talked to David Carr about it. He understands. We had a couple of conversations about it. That's a personal thing between he and I, and I'm going to leave it there. Troy Smith is our starting quarterback."

With the Niners off to a 1-6 start, Singletary has little to lose by taking a gamble.

Troy Smith spent the last three years with Baltimore, where his only two starts came in the 2007 season as he struggled to live up to the hype from his college days.

But the mobile quarterback, who could give San Francisco's offense extra options with his scrambling ability, said he wasn't surprised by Singletary's decision.

"The way that you prepare as a professional athlete, you have to be prepared when

your number is called. And that's exactly where I'm at," he said.

The Niners have a bye following the game at Wembley, giving Alex Smith a chance to heal before San Francisco faces the St. Louis Rams on Nov. 14. He was tackled from the blind side by Carolina's Charles Johnson, driving his shoulder into the turf. He arrived in London on Monday — along with the rest of the team — and spent the morning at the hospital, still with his non-throwing arm in a sling.

Singletary said Troy Smith had never taken first-team snaps in practice with the Niners before this week, but that he's catching on quickly. "He's been studying since we got here, and has been getting with the coaches as much as he possibly could," Singletary said.

"He has enough of the offense to play."

Troy Smith said he was told "a couple of days ago" that he would start and would "continue to prepare like a madman" for the rest of the week.

"I think the easiest way to get through to your teammates that you're serious about what's going on is to know exactly what your job is, know exactly what everyone expects from you and go out and execute," Troy Smith said. "At the same time you have to respect your boundaries. I believe in not stepping on anybody's toes, I believe in getting in where you fit in." □

San Francisco 49ers' Alex Smith looks on from the sidelines after being injured during the second half against the Carolina Panthers in an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press



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Injured Favre won't rule himself out vs. Patriots

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre is not ruling himself out of playing the New England Patriots in the NFL on Sunday despite two fractures in his left ankle.

The 41-year-old Favre wore a large, gray walking boot on his left leg to the podium for his regular news conference on Wednesday, and he said he doesn't anticipate participating in a full practice at all this week.

Favre said he's always had a knack for healing quickly, which gives him hope he'll play on Sunday.

Favre was hurt in Sunday's loss to the Green Bay Packers, and an exam revealed a stress fracture in the ankle as well as an "avulsion" fracture in the heel bone, where a

fragment has been torn away by a tendon or ligament. He doesn't need surgery, and he said after consulting with doctors he's confident he can't make the injury worse by playing.

Since taking over as the starter for the Packers in 1992, Favre has played through all kinds of pain — including a broken thumb — and not once has he sat out. His NFL-record streak is at 291 consecutive games started, 315 including the playoffs.

Favre, though, insisted he won't put his pride in the record over the sake of the team.

"I'm very proud of the streak, but it probably should have ended a long time ago," Favre said, adding: "Whether it ends this week or it ends at the end of the year, it ends, and I will always be proud of it."

Favre is also the subject of an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent lewd photographs and suggestive messages to a female New York Jets employee in 2008, a development that first put his streak in danger with the possibility of a suspension under the league's personal conduct policy.

Favre said the injury hasn't made him consider retiring and that he's fully committed to finishing the season.

"There's still a lot of football left. We've dug ourselves a hole here. We all know that, for whatever reason," Favre said. "This could easily be an injury where I could say, 'I'm going to slip under the radar. See you later. Easy out.' And people may think that. I want to play, and I want to help this team win. I owe that to the guys. I owe that to myself." □



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre, wearing a cast on his left leg, walks to a press conference to discuss his injury at the Vikings NFL football training facility in Eden Prairie, Minn. Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

Associated Press



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CATS & DOGS KITTY GALORE 3D daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:45 - 2:45 late show: 11:00 PG	ERNST, BOBBIE EN HET GEHEIM VAN DE MONTA ROSSA daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:15 - 2:15 late show: 11:00 PG
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Stosur upsets Wozniacki in WTA Championships

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Sam Stosur of Australia upset the No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki Wednesday at the WTA Championships 6-4, 6-3, keeping alive the race for the top ranking for at least one more day.

Stosur, a runner-up at the French Open, played some of her most inspired tennis this year. She used a powerful forehand and strong serve to rattle the normally consistent Wozniacki.

A closely-fought first set was decided by a forehand winner from Stosur. Stosur turned up the heat in the second, racing to a 5-2 lead. But Wozniacki scratched a game back and nerves seemed to get the best of Stosur as she twice double-faulted before closing out the final game when Wozniacki returned her serve long.

"I'm really pleased to get through," a beaming Stosur said as she came off the court. "It's so exciting to be here. It's a great way to finish the year. You give everything you got for the last week and it's all come together so I'm very happy."

Wozniacki, who won her opening match Tuesday against Elena Dementieva, only needed a victory Wednesday to secure the top ranking for 2010. But she was uncharacteristically erratic, committing 17 unforced errors and failing to convert all six of her break points. At one point, she threw her racket and had several heart-to-heart talks with her father courtside.

"For me today, I didn't take my chances," Wozniacki said. "I lost the match and I need to just try to get

over it fast and prepare for tomorrow."

Wozniacki, who replaced the injured Serena Williams as the No. 1 earlier this month, said the thought of losing that title to the No. 2 Vera Zvonareva never entered her mind. Zvonareva must reach the final to have any chance at becoming No. 1 for the year.

"I don't think about it," Wozniacki said. "I go into the match every time and I want to win I want to do my job and that it. I don't really think about everything else."

Earlier Wednesday, Zvonareva claimed her second win of the White Group by beating Victoria Azarenka 7-6 (4), 6-4 in a closely-fought match that puts her in a good position to reach the semifinals.

In the same group, Kim Clijsters returned from a six-week break with a 6-2, 6-3 win over an ailing Jelena Jankovic.

The top two players from each round-robin group will go through to the semifinals.

Zvonareva, a Wimbledon and U.S. Open runner-up, recovered from 2-0, 4-2 and 5-4 down against Azarenka of Belarus in the first set, winning the tiebreaker with the help of an ace and several other big serves.

In the second set, she was behind 2-0 and 3-1 before winning 6-4 against a visibly frustrated Azarenka. Zvonareva said it was "a good win" especially given she was able to repeatedly come back from a hard-hitting opponent who kept her off balance for much of the night.

"I'm really happy that I was able to come back in those two sets when I was

down," she said. "I think I shouldn't have started that slow, because I gave her an advantage right away. But at the same time, I was just trying to find my rhythm. I was trying to play aggressive. Of course when you're taking a little bit more risk, those mistakes will come."

Azarenka, the tenth-ranked player who only got invited to the tournament with the injury to Serena Williams, chalked up her loss to several missed chances.

"Yes, definitely it was a close match. I had a lot of chances," he said. "Very unlucky at some moments ... But, you know, it's part of the game. You just have to deal with it. I think I played a good match. I'm still in the group. I still have chances to play further."

The match between two good friends lasted for over two hours and was easily the most entertaining in the tournament so far with several rallies of 10 shots or more.

Azarenka, who was coming off a victory in the Kremlin Cup, started out strongly helped by some superb forehands and erratic play on the part of Zvonareva.

Zvonareva struggled with her serve early on and was hitting too many balls into the net or long, prompting her at one point to kick the ground, mumble and cradle her racket. But Zvonareva got her game going late in the first set, hitting several aces and backhand winners down the line. She leveled at 6-6 and then raced out to a 3-0 lead in the tiebreak and closed out the set with Azarenka netting.

The second set started much the same with Azarenka the aggressor. But up 3-1, she let Zvonareva back in the



Samantha Stosur from Australia returns the ball to Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki during the 2nd day of Qatar WTA Tennis Championship in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010.

Associated Press



Kim Clijsters from Belgium returns the ball to Serbia's Jelena Jankovic during the 2nd day of Qatar WTA Tennis Championship in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010.

Associated Press

match with several double faults and shots that sailed long. Helped by a strong backhand and improving serve, Zvonareva took the lead at 5-4 and closed it out when Azarenka hit a shot long.

The fourth-ranked Clijsters has not played since winning the U.S. Open in September because of a foot injury, but she won the first eight points without reply on her way to a comfortable win on Wednesday.

Jankovic said after her opening match — a defeat by Zvonareva — that she was struggling with illness and had collapsed in the locker room after complaining of dizziness. The Serb took a 2-1 lead in

the second set, but Clijsters came back to make it 4-2 before closing out the match when Jankovic double-faulted.

Clijsters looked comfortable on the court, moving easily and pulling off several cross court winners. She did show a bit of rust, committing 10 double faults to go along with her seven aces.

"It wasn't my best tennis, but still good enough to win in two pretty easy sets," Clijsters said. "The score was a lot easier than it was. But I felt I did a lot of good things. Also a few little things that I just need to tweak better by tomorrow. Just need to, yeah, just do a few little things better." □



Undefeated Zenyatta to take on boys in BC Classic



This April 9, 2010 photo shows Zenyatta, jockey Mike Smith up, winning the \$500,000 Apple Blossom Invitational horse race at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark. Zenyatta's trainer says the superstar mare deserves to be Horse of the Year regardless of how she does in next month's Breeders' Cup Classic.

Associated Press

BETH HARRIS
AP Racing Writer

Zenyatta will put her 19-0 record on the line when she defends her title in the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic, going against the boys for the second consecutive year.

A record total of 184 horses, including 26 from overseas, were pre-entered on Wednesday for the \$26 million, 14-race Breeders' Cup world championships

at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky from Nov. 5-6. That tops last year's total of 166 and better the old mark of 180 two years ago.

Todd Pletcher leads all trainers with 11 pre-entered horses.

"We're coming in holding a strong hand," he said.

Zenyatta was pre-entered in the Classic, along with 13 others, including Preakness Stakes winner Lookin At Lucky and runner-up First Dude,

Whitney winner Blame and Woodward and Metropolitan Mile winner Quality Road, a Pletcher-trained horse who was scratched at the gate before last year's Classic.

"It's the first Classic ever that everybody is going to be cheering for one horse," said Bob Baffert, who trains Lookin At Lucky but counts himself a Zenyatta fan. "That mare has done so much for racing. We all want to win, but we don't mind getting beat by her."

Final entries and the post-position draw will be on Tuesday.

Zenyatta has won all five of her starts this year and will be looking to end her spectacular career with a victory in the 1¼-mile (2,000-meter) Classic. It will be her second start on dirt this year. She won the Apple Blossom for the second straight year at Arkansas' Oaklawn Park in April.

"She just looks terrific. The races really haven't taken anything out of her," trainer John Shirreffs said. "She's handling everything very well."

The 6-year-old mare has run most of her career on Southern

California's synthetic surfaces. She beat the boys in last year's Classic at Santa Anita, coming from last after a poor start to win by a length and become the first female to win the race in its 26-year history.

Shirreffs said last year's Classic is his favorite moment of Zenyatta's career.

"It was in front of such a large crowd," he said. "Everybody was cheering for her to win at the end of the race and you could feel the electricity in the grandstand."

Tiznow is the only horse to win consecutive Classics, in 2000 and '01.

Gio Ponti, who finished second last year, will get another shot at Zenyatta.

U.S. horse racing's richest two days are back at Churchill Downs for a record seventh time after being held at Santa Anita for the last two years. The event will be run at Churchill in 2011, too.

The full field of 14 pre-entries for the Classic includes Japanese champion Espoir City, Jockey Club Gold Cup winner Haynesfield, Travers runner-up Fly Down, Metropolitan Mile runner-up Musket Man, and Virginia

Derby winner Paddy O'Prado, who was third in the Kentucky Derby.

Other Classic pre-entries are Crown of Thorns, Dakota Phone and Etched.

One of the top foreign entries is Ireland-bred Goldikova, who will seek her third straight win in the \$2 million Turf. Last year, European horses won six of the 14 Breeders' Cup races. Trained by Freddy Head, Goldikova has won four of five starts this year, including three of them against males.

"All she wants to do is run, run, run," he said. "She's kept that freshness that some horses lose with age and get lazy."

For the first time, the \$2 million Ladies' Classic — won by Zenyatta in 2008 — will finish under the lights on Nov. 5. The leading contenders include Blind Luck, a 3-year-old filly with five victories this year, including the Kentucky Oaks at Churchill; and 5-year-old mare Life At Ten, who has one loss in six starts this year for Pletcher.

A maximum of 14 starters are allowed in each race, except for the Juvenile Turf, Juvenile Fillies Turf and the Dirt Mile, which are limited to 12. □

Roach: Pacquiao having worst-ever training camp

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Manny Pacquiao finally made his way past the autograph hounds and the process server to climb the rickety staircase to the Wild Card Gym, he was met by dozens of fans, fellow fighters, reporters and even a television star, all wanting a moment before his workout. Hollywood is jam-packed with distractions for the world's top pound-for-pound boxer — and the man they call Pacman isn't even a congressman in this country.

Trainer Freddie Roach says Pacquiao is having the worst training camp of his career heading into his Nov. 13 meeting with Antonio

Margarito in Texas.

In the five months since he won a congressional seat in his native Philippines, boxing has lost some of its urgency for Pacquiao. Roach can even cite physical evidence their careers have been hurt by politics.

"He has a foot problem, and that's because he wears dress shoes too much," Roach said, referring to the nagging left heel injury that has slowed Pacquiao's running.

Although Roach thinks he'll have no problem putting together a speed-based game plan to beat the bigger Margarito, he's worried about Pacquiao's ability to execute it.

The fighter who flawlessly teamed with boxing's most

respected trainer to forge a 12-fight winning streak just doesn't have the same focus, or even the same drive.

"At two in the morning, I'm walking around Baguio pulling my hair out, saying, 'What do I have to do?'" Roach said, referring to the Filipino city where they trained before returning to Los Angeles last weekend.

"I know his mind is off the fight. I know his mind is somewhere else, and that's because of politics. If there are no more challenges out there after this fight, this could be it. If Floyd (Mayweather Jr.) doesn't come to the table, I don't know what's going to challenge him. He loves his other job, and he might be done with this one."



Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, trains for his upcoming boxing match with Antonio Margarito at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

Associated Press

Roach hopes the move stateside will help, although the hubbub Wednesday at the open workout suggested otherwise.

After Pacquiao apparently was served with papers in an envelope on the way into the gym, he quickly got his hands wrapped before walking

slowly around the ring in the Wild Card's stifling heat, patiently answering questions from dozens of reporters. Perhaps after greeting actor Jeremy Piven, Pacquiao would be ready to train.

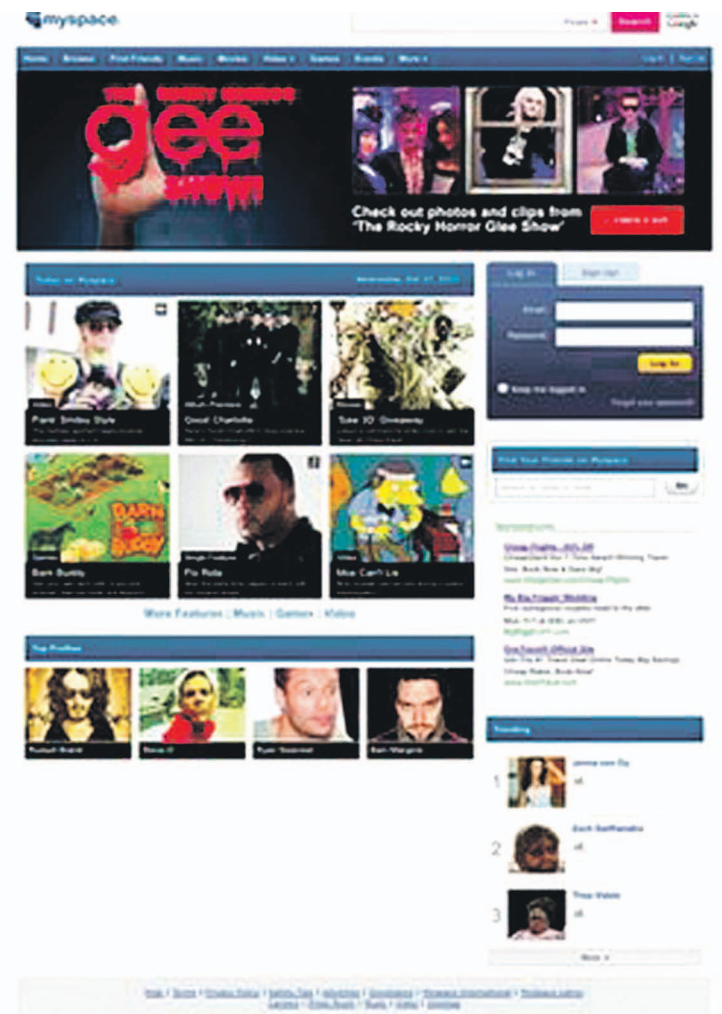
"I've been under pressure and tough conditions before," Pacquiao said. □

'New MySpace' narrows focus to entertainment

By BARBARA ORTUTAY,
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK — MySpace, the online social hub that's been fighting to stay relevant in the age of Facebook and Twitter, is overhauling its image and its website into an entertainment destination for its mostly younger audience. The social-networking pioneer, which was among the top Internet sites just a few years ago, now has its sights set decidedly lower. Starting Wednesday and over the next month, MySpace will be relaunching its site to focus on giving users more ways to consume music, videos and celebrity gossip. Entertainment has long been central to the MySpace experience, but over the years the site was also pulled in different directions as it dabbled in classifieds, job ads and even user reviews in

a partnership with Citysearch as it pushed to become a social portal for the Web. It didn't work out, and Facebook is now emerging as that portal. MySpace CEO Mike Jones said the relaunch "pulls us out of the social networking category" to become a social entertainment destination. So instead of connecting with long-lost friends and sharing baby photos, MySpace wants to be the place where people go to find out about new bands, chat about TV shows and make movie recommendations. "The vision has definitely gotten a lot smaller in this redesign," said Debra Aho Williamson, a senior analyst at research firm eMarketer. "When News Corp. bought MySpace it certainly didn't envision this. I don't think Rupert (Murdoch, News Corp.'s CEO) thought

MySpace would be a small social entertainment website." News Corp. bought MySpace for \$580 million in 2005. For some perspective, that's the same year YouTube launched. After a promising start, the site's luster began to fade and advertisers, along with users, flocked to Facebook. EMarketer estimates that advertisers worldwide will spend about \$347 million on MySpace this year, down from \$470 million in 2009. The research firm estimates 2010 ad spending on Facebook to be around \$1.3 billion, more than double \$665 million a year earlier. In the most recent quarter, the News Corp. segment responsible for MySpace lost \$174 million, mostly due to lower search and advertising revenue. News Corp. reports fiscal first-quarter results on Nov. 1.



This screenshot shows the MySpace website page Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010. MySpace, the online social hub that's been fighting to stay relevant in the age of Facebook and Twitter, is overhauling its image and its website into an entertainment destination for its mostly younger audience. Starting Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010 and over the next month, MySpace will be relaunching its site to focus on giving users more ways to consume music, videos and celebrity gossip.

(AP photo/MySpace)

Comcast drives growth with pricier bundles

By ANDREW VANACORE,
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK — Comcast Corp., the country's biggest cable TV company, continues to generate more money by attracting customers to pricier bundles of TV, Internet and phone service — even as a sluggish economy hampers efforts to sign up new subscribers. Comcast released third-quarter results Wednesday that showed its revenue is growing at its fastest clip since the fourth quarter of 2008. Net income dipped 8 percent, but only because of one-time costs, including legal bills and other expenses related to its pending takeover of NBC Universal. Comcast is hoping to win federal approval for its purchase of a controlling stake in the entertainment company from General Electric Co. by the end of the year. Comcast shares rose 75 cents, or 3.8 percent, to \$20.39 in midday trading Wednesday. "They performed well in a difficult environment," Kaufman Bros. analyst Todd Mitchell said. The company faces two sets of obstacles in trying to win



FILE - In this Dec. 3, 2009 file photo, a sign outside the Comcast Center, left, is shown in Philadelphia. Comcast Corp. reported an 8 percent drop in third-quarter earnings Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, a decline caused by expenses related to its pending acquisition of NBC Universal and other one-time costs.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke, file)

new customers. First, a depressed housing market and high unemployment mean fewer people are moving to new homes and adding new cable hookups. Second, Comcast is competing with an array of satellite and phone companies providing television in a market that is basically mature. Most households in the U.S. already have some kind of subscription TV service, so the search for new customers comes down to who can offer a package enticing enough to

get people to switch. At the same time Comcast's expenses are rising. The fees that it pays ESPN, MTV and other cable channels continue to increase. And over the past few years broadcast stations that used to allow cable companies to retransmit network television for free have been asking for fees as well, often resulting in nasty public feuds; Cablevision Systems Corp. and Fox remain locked in a fee dispute that has left the network off lineups in the New York area since Oct. 16. □

If the relaunch is successful, MySpace may still become the cultural powerhouse MTV was in the 1990s, when its decision to play a new music video could turn a band's fortunes overnight. Keeping with the age of the social Web, however, MySpace won't be the only one deciding what's cool. The site will also make its most loyal users the curators in a feature that's coming at a yet-unspecified date. "The MTV influence is really obvious," Williamson said, adding that MySpace still has "pull with the audience it's trying to reach - young people." There are big cosmetic changes too. Long criticized for cluttered, clunky home pages, MySpace is streamlining its design. It will show fewer ads, but place them more prominently. It also will have far fewer buttons and page templates. In a presentation, the company called it "cleaning up

MySpace e-waste." "If we are refurbishing a house, it's starting from the ground up," Jones said of the eight-month redesign process. MySpace has long fallen behind Facebook in user numbers and estimated advertising revenue, in part because it never appealed to older users. Its roughly 130 million users are mostly under 35, while Facebook's fastest-growing user base is those over 35. MySpace now says it's not trying to compete with social networks like Facebook. "We're working on refocusing the company (and) narrowing down what our product does," Jones said. Jones is the last of a three-person executive team that joined the company in April 2009. His former co-president Jason Hirschhorn, left in June and former CEO Owen Van Natta, once chief revenue officer of Facebook, left in February. □

Cameron returns to space with 2 'Avatar' sequels



In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, 'Avatar.'

(AP Photo/20th Century Fox)

LOS ANGELES — James Cameron will start writing the scripts for two "Avatar" sequels early next year, aiming to land the first one in theaters four years from now.

Executives at 20th Century Fox announced Wednesday that Cameron has settled on two sequels to the blockbuster hit as his next film projects with plans to

begin production in late 2011. The studio hopes to have the first of the as-yet-untitled sequels in theaters in December 2014, with the third movie in the franchise following in December 2015. Cameron will decide whether to shoot the films back-to-back after he completes the scripts for the sequels to his sci-fi sensation. Set on the distant Pandora, "Avatar" is the biggest modern blockbuster, with \$2.8 billion at the box office worldwide. "In the second and third films, which will be self-contained stories that also fulfill a greater story arc, we will not back off the throttle of 'Avatar's' visual and emotional horsepower, and will continue to explore

its themes and characters, which touched the hearts of audiences in all cultures around the world," Cameron said in a news release.

"I'm looking forward to returning to Pandora, a world where our imaginations can run wild."

Cameron had been up in the air on what he would do next, telling reporters as recently as last week that he had not decided whether to shoot another film before returning to his "Avatar" saga.

The studio was anxious to get back into the "Avatar" business.

"We had no higher priority, and can feel no greater joy, than enabling Jim to continue and expand his vision of the world of 'Avatar,'" Fox

studio bosses Jim Gianopulos and Tom Rothman said in a statement.

"'Avatar' is not only the highest grossing movie of all time, it is a created universe based on the singular imagination and daring of James Cameron, who also raised the consciousness of people worldwide to some of the greatest issues facing our planet."

"Avatar" follows the adventures of a man in alien form ([Sam Worthington](#)) who falls for a 10-foot, blue-skinned native (Zoe Saldana) of the distant moon Pandora, where greedy humans wage war over the land's natural resources. □



Batman sequel gets a name: 'Dark Knight Rises'

LOS ANGELES — The next Batman sequel has a title: "The Dark Knight Rises."

A spokeswoman for

FILE - In this undated file image released by Warner Bros., Christian Bale is shown as Batman in a scene from "The Dark Knight."

(AP Photo/Warner Bros.)

director Christopher Nolan confirmed the title for the filmmaker's third adventure about the DC Comics vigilante hero, which follows "Batman Begins" in 2005 and "The Dark Knight" in 2008.

"The Dark Knight Rises" is due in theaters in 2012.

Bucking Hollywood's

current wave of 3-D movies, Nolan is not planning to shoot the film in 3-D.

Distributor Warner Bros. had agreed with Nolan's argument that the sequel should resist the 3-D craze, the director told the Los Angeles Times' Hero Complex blog, which first reported the title. □

Looking for a car? Try 007's Aston Martin

By GREGORY KATZ,
Associated Press

LONDON — For the discerning driver, it's got an ejector seat, machine guns and a world-class pedigree. Problem is, it's going to cost a truckload of dough.

One of the world's most famous James Bond cars — the specially equipped Aston Martin first driven by Sean Connery in "Goldfinger" — will be auctioned off in London on Wednesday evening, and it's likely to fetch one of the highest prices ever paid for an automobile.

The unique car, which also has rotating license plates and other spy gear, is expected to go for more than 3.5 million pounds (\$5.5 million).

"This is the only genuine, 007 James Bond car," said Mick Walsh, Editor-in-Chief of Classic and Sports Car

Magazine. "You know the reputation of James Bond. The bidding could go mad."

He said the fact the iconic Aston Martin has never been auctioned before means it will have tremendous appeal to collectors.

"It's never been on the market before, and with the classic car scene it's very important to see something new," he said. "There's going to be some serious action tonight."

He said it is likely the car will end up on public display, perhaps as the centerpiece of an upscale office complex in a city like Los Angeles or Moscow.

Bond's creator, newspaperman and novelist Ian Fleming, had originally placed Bond in a Bentley, which was his own personal car of choice.

But the filmmakers put him in the Aston Martin, which then

competed mainly with the Jaguar E-type for the lucrative British and American sports car market.

Aston Martin was seen as a heady mix of Italian design and British engineering.

The silver Aston Martin DB5 coupe up for auction was used by Connery to elude various villains in both "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball" —

generally regarded as early classics in Hollywood's longest running and most successful film franchise.

It is closely associated with the Connery-era Bond films, which are often preferred by aficionados, who rate him above George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and the current 007, Daniel Craig.

The use of the Aston Martin, with a rear bulletproof shield that could be activated with the

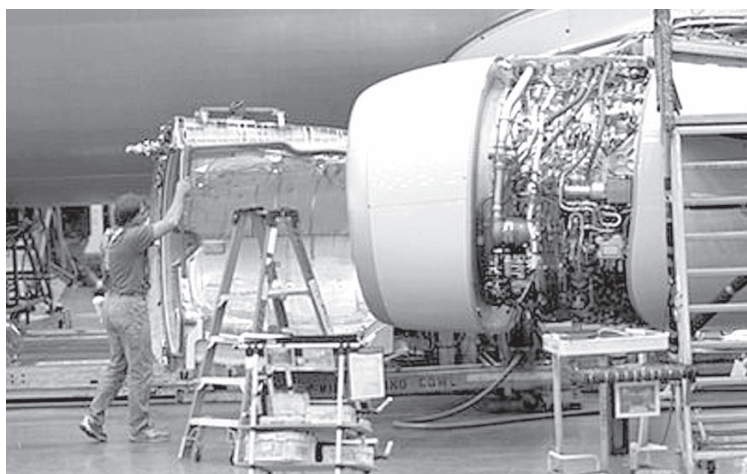


Jerry Lee of Philadelphia, and current owner of the 'James Bond' 1964 Aston Martin DB5, stands by the car as it is viewed by the media, in London, Tuesday, Oct., 26, 2010. The car which was the road car in the Bond movie 'Goldfinger' and the effects car in 'Thunderball' both starring Sean Connery is expected to sell for around \$5.5 million (euro3.9 million), at auction in London, Thursday, Oct. 27.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

push of a dashboard button, provided a major boost for the British carmaker, which received worldwide publicity when the car was featured in "Goldfinger" in 1964.

It was the Bond movies that made Aston Martin a household name, even though its handmade cars remained far too expensive for most. □



A Boeing Co. worker moves an engine cover into place on a 737 airplane at the company's assembly facility in Renton, Wash., Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010. Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods increased in September by the largest amount in eight months as demand for commercial aircraft soared. However, outside of the volatile transportation sector, orders declined, reflecting weakness in a number of areas.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Durable goods orders rise, business spending cools

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A surge in demand for commercial aircraft lifted orders for big-ticket manufactured goods in September, but business spending weakened on products that signal expansion plans.

The Commerce Department says orders for durable goods rose 3.3 percent last month. Overall, it was the best showing since January. But excluding transportation, orders fell 0.8 percent after having risen 1.9 percent in August.

And spending by companies on capital goods excluding aircraft dropped 0.6 percent after rising 4.8 percent in August. The category, which is viewed as a good proxy for business investment in the economy, has declined in two of the past three months.

The new report suggests manufacturing, one of the bright spots in the current lackluster economy, is moving forward but at a slower pace than earlier this year.

Factories helped boost the economy after the recession ended, filling orders from businesses that moved to rebuild their stockpiles after slashing them during the downturn. That trend as slowed, said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist with BMO Capital Markets.

"The next leg of the recovery will increasingly rest on the shoulders of consumers," Guatieri said in a note to clients.

The biggest decline came was in orders for communications equipment. They fell 18.6 percent. Orders for primary metals such as steel dropped 0.5 percent. Orders for computers and related electronic products rose 2 percent and orders for heavy machinery was also up 2 percent.

Demand for transportation equipment jumped 15.7 percent, the best showing since January. It is a very volatile category that had fallen by 30 percent in August.

The surge offset a 0.4 percent drop in demand for motor vehicles last month after a 5.1 percent decline in August.

The overall economy is expected to show growth of around 2 percent in the July-September quarter. □

Stocks fall amid questions about Fed plan

By STEPHEN BERNARD,

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks slid Wednesday as concerns grew over whether the Federal Reserve's plans to buy Treasury bonds might be smaller and slower than anticipated.

Another day of mixed earnings and economic reports also dragged down stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 130 points in afternoon trading.

Traders were disappointed with earnings at Sprint Nextel Corp. and ConocoPhillips. Procter & Gamble Co. was one of the few companies shares to rise after it beat forecasts.

Stocks had been rising in recent weeks because of some mostly upbeat earnings and mounting expectations that the Fed would embark on another round of bond-buying to stimulate the economy.

Traders have been anticipating the Fed would buy between \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in Treasuries to drive interest rates lower and encourage lending and spending. A report in The Wall Street Journal said the Fed's bond purchases might amount to a few hundred billion dollars over several months, which would fall short of those predictions.

"The higher the number, the better for the market," said Michael Gault, a senior portfolio strategist at Weiser Capital Management. "Every measured step from that, the market will pull back."

The Fed meets next week and details of any stimulus are expected to be announced when the meeting wraps up Nov. 3.

The Dow fell 129.15, or 1.2 percent, to 11,040.46 in afternoon trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.38, or 1 percent,



Traders Michael Urkonis, left, and Jonathan Corpina work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

to 1,174.26, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 12.83, or 0.5 percent, to 2,484.46.

Treasury prices fell Wednesday, driving interest rates higher.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.69 percent from 2.64 percent late Tuesday. It briefly climbed above 2.70 percent Wednesday for the first time since late September, just before the Fed first hinted it was considering buying bonds to stimulate the economy.

Procter & Gamble said its profit slipped during the most recent quarter, but still beat forecasts. Its shares rose 1 cent to \$62.87.

Sprint Nextel reported a wider loss. It shares fell 45 cents, or 9.4 percent, to \$4.32.

ConocoPhillips also beat forecasts, but its shares dropped \$1.01 to \$59.81. Energy and material stocks were also being hurt Wednesday by a stronger dollar. A rise in the dollar was hurting the price of commodities.

A report on durable goods orders also provided a mixed picture of the health of the economy. The Commerce Department said durable goods rose faster than economists had forecast in September. However, excluding the

volatile transportation sector, orders fell. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters had forecast a rise in orders excluding transportation.

The report indicates the pace of growth in manufacturing is slowing. Manufacturing had been one of the brightest spots in the economy during the first half of the year.

Sales of new homes rose slightly faster than economists had expected last month, but still remain near their lowest levels on record.

Joe Murin, chairman of the Collingwood Group, said lower interest rates on mortgages that could occur if the Fed buys more bonds won't spark more demand for the loans and help lift sales. Only renewed consumer confidence will do the trick, Murin said.

"Interest rates are (already) at an all-time low" and there's no demand, Murin added. Driving rates even lower would also make investors who buy mortgages from banks even less interested in them because returns would be so small, he said. Signs of a strong economy could lead the Fed to ratchet back its plans. A key reading on gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the country's economic growth, is due out Friday. □



Eating Whole Grains, Fewer Refined Grains, May Help Heart



People who regularly eat whole grains rather than refined grains pack on less of the type of fat linked to a higher risk for heart disease and type 2 diabetes, new research suggests.

In high amounts, visceral adipose tissue (VAT) -- the fat that surrounds the intra-abdominal organs -- is associated with the onset of high blood pressure, high cholesterol and insulin resistance, health risk factors collectively known as the "metabolic syndrome."

"VAT volume was approximately 10 percent lower in adults who reported eating three or more daily servings of whole grains and who limited their intake of refined grains to less than one serving per day," said study co-author Nicola McKeown, a scientist with Tufts University's nutritional epidemiology program at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging.

"For example, a slice of 100 percent whole-wheat bread or a half-cup of oatmeal constituted one serving of whole grains and a slice of white bread or a half-cup of white rice represented a serving of refined grains," she noted in a Tufts news release.

The findings, recently published online in

the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, stem from an analysis of dietary surveys and body-fat scans conducted among more than 2,800 men and women between the ages of 32 and 83. Even after accounting for additional lifestyle factors including smoking history, alcohol consumption, fruit and vegetable intake, percentage of calories comprised of fat, and physical activity routines, the authors found that consuming several servings a day of whole grains is associated with lower amounts of VAT.

However, those who consumed three servings a day of whole grains and several daily servings of refined grains did not appear to benefit from the whole grain-lower VAT connection.

"Whole grain consumption did not appear to improve VAT volume if refined grain intake exceeded four or more servings per day," noted McKeown.

"This result implies that it is important to make substitutions in the diet, rather than simply adding whole grain foods," she advised. "For example, choosing to cook with brown rice instead of white, or making a sandwich with whole-grain bread instead of white bread." □

Women Urged to Reclaim Their Life After Breast Cancer

With October designated as National Breast Cancer Awareness month, one expert offers breast cancer survivors some guidance on what they can do to reclaim and maintain their health.

Karen Syrjala, director of biobehavioral sciences and co-director of the survivorship program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, touches upon both the lingering physical and emotional concerns prompted

by a battle with cancer.

First, cancer survivors should summarize their prior treatment for their primary care physician, and enlist the doctor in an effort to monitor the long-term impact that radiation, chemotherapy and other aggressive interventions can have down the road, Syrjala advised.

Fear of cancer recurrence should be tackled head on, she said, by getting a firm understanding of one's

particular risk and seeking out counseling to help manage concerns.

Regular exercise and eating well also top Syrjala's "to-do" list, as part of an effort to embark on lifestyle changes that enhance the chances for long-term survival. She also promotes weight management, particularly as a response to certain cancer medications such as tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors, which can cause women to put on



File - In this Monday, Oct. 25, 2010 file photo, pink lights used to promote breast cancer awareness light up Jerusalem's Old City. Jerusalem is decked out in pink for a race to support breast cancer research, the first time such an event is taking place in Israel, where breast cancer kills more women than any other disease. Participants will run on Thursday through downtown streets lined with pink banners and past Jerusalem's Old City walls, which have been lit this week in pink.

(AP Photo/Tara Todras-Whitehill, File)

Parent-Only Programs Can Help Obese Kids Lose Weight: Study

Treatments designed to tackle childhood obesity by enrolling just the parents in nutrition and exercise education programs are as effective as those that enlist both parents and children, new research suggests.

Such parent-only programs are also generally cheaper and more practical for families, researchers say.

"Our results showed that the parent-only group was not inferior in terms of child weight loss, parent weight loss and child physical activity," study author Kerri N. Boutelle, an associate professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, said in a university news release.

"While further research is needed, our work suggests that parent-only groups are a viable method for providing childhood obesity treatment," she added.

Boutelle, also of Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, and her colleagues reported the findings in the Oct. 21 online edition of Obesity, in advance of publication in an upcoming print issue of the journal. □

pounds. Not smoking, having no more than one alcoholic drink a day, using sunscreen and getting enough vitamin D will also help with long-term survival, she added.

And for women who struggle with the ongoing fatigue or memory and concentration issues (sometimes referred to as "chemobrain") following

treatment, Syrjala urges them to seek help rather than suffer in silence.

Lastly, she encourages women to connect with other breast cancer survivors, while looking into the many community and online resources now available to help patients move on with their lives. □

Pancreatic Cancer Shown to be Surprisingly Slow Killer

Amber Angelle

Studies into the genetic changes that occur in pancreatic cancers show the notoriously deadly disease develops over a longer time than thought, and suggest potential new targets for treatments, according to two reports published today (Oct. 27) in the journal Nature.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers - this year alone, the National Cancer Institute expects it to be diagnosed in more than 43,000 Americans and to kill more than 36,000.

The high mortality rate is largely due to the fact that the cancer has no early symptoms and has metastasized, or spread to other organs, before it is detected.

How long pancreatic cancer takes to grow

In one of the new studies, Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue of Johns Hopkins University and colleagues looked at the genetic mutations in tumor samples from seven patients who died of metastatic

pancreatic cancer.

The researchers compared the mutations found in the patients' original tumors, and also the mutations found in the organs to which their cancer had spread.

They found all of the mutations in the metastases were present in the original tumor.

By analyzing the mutations, Iacobuzio-Donahue created a timeline of how pancreatic cancer grows. Her results showed 11.7 years pass between the first mutations and the development of true cancer cells, and 6.8 years pass between the arising of the first cancer cells and the development, in at least one cell, of the potential to spread to other organs.

It followed that pancreatic cancer's high mortality rate is not due to rapid spread but rather to the failure to detect its earliest stages, she said. The time the cancer takes to develop provides a "window of opportunity" for diagnosis and treatment. "This question has not really been answered for other cancer types,"

Iacobuzio-Donahue told MyHealthNewsDaily, "but we were able to address it because of our unique approach of performing rapid autopsies to collect the entire primary tumor to compare to the metastases."

An evolving disease

A separate study took a closer look at the processes at work in the mutations in pancreatic cancer. Peter Campbell of the University of Cambridge in Great Brittan and colleagues found not only do mutations in the tumor in the pancreas cause metastasis, but the metastases themselves may continue to develop further mutations.

"It's a somewhat depressing view of cancer from the therapeutic viewpoint," Campbell told MyHealthNewsDaily, because this, in a sense, creates a moving target for drugs. "But it does partly explain why metastatic pancreatic cancer has such a dismal prognosis."

Still, Campbell said organ-specific mutations may be

what allow tumor cells to thrive in certain organs, and these mutations could be targets for drugs. For example, in cancer that had spread from the pancreas to the lung, Campbell found that a gene called myc had been mutated. This mutation is what allowed cells to "set up shop in lung tissue," Campbell said.

Larger studies are needed - Campbell's study included samples from only 10 patients - to determine whether "a core set of genes that promote specific metastases" can be identified, Campbell said.

"I think the most logical step is to treat the earliest mutations," Campbell said. "It may then be possible to choose therapies to mop up any resistant metastases."

Still, both studies highlighted not only the complexity of pancreatic cancer mutations within a patient, but also the uniqueness of particular mutations to each individual. More research would be needed to develop treatments.

More not always better with in vitro fertilization

By ALICIA CHANG,

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — More tries aren't necessarily better when it comes to in vitro fertilization.

New research found that about 1 in 3 women had a baby the first time they tried a test tube embryo, and that improved to nearly 1 in 2 with a second try.

However, undergoing a third cycle boosted success rates very little and leveled off with subsequent attempts.

"Don't quit if the first cycle isn't successful. Your chances go up with the second cycle," said lead researcher Barbara Luke of Michigan State University. But "if you haven't gotten pregnant by the third, the chances are slim to continue."

In vitro fertilization involves mixing egg and sperm in a laboratory dish. The resulting embryo is then transferred into the womb

to grow into a baby. Earlier this month, British researcher Robert Edwards won the medicine Nobel Prize for pioneering the technique that has led to 4 million test tube babies.

Infertility treatment is expensive. The average cost for an IVF cycle is about \$12,400, according to the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. Some insurance companies cover it.

Desperate couples often try over and over to conceive, and there are no ethics standards on when doctors should stop helping them try. Fertility clinics report success rates based on the number of cycles attempted, but that doesn't indicate how likely an individual woman is to get pregnant with each IVF cycle she undergoes.

The new study is the first to examine that nationally.

Continued on Next Page

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66-Foot Waves Hit New York in Ancient Asteroid Splashdown



Charles Q. Choi

A cosmic impact two millennia ago may have sent tsunamis deluging what is now the Big Apple, scientists suggest.

Many of the giant sea waves known as tsunamis are caused by underwater earthquakes and volcanoes - for example, the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was triggered by a quake off the northwestern coast of Sumatra. Still, the causes of nearly 10 percent of all tsunamis nowadays remain uncertain.

Cosmic impacts have been known to cause tsunamis in the past. For instance, scientists have found evidence that the Chicxulub impact in Mexico, which may have

ended the age of dinosaurs, triggered gigantic waves.

Now researchers have evidence suggesting that an asteroid roughly 200 yards (183 meters) wide crashed off the coast of New Jersey and sent tsunamis surging toward what is now New York City some 2,300 years ago. [Video - Recreating an Ancient Tsunami]

"Our models suggest the tsunamis were up to 20 meters (66 feet) high when they entered the Hudson River," said researcher Dallas Abbott, a geologist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York.

New York City lies at the

mouth of the Hudson. When the scientists drilled out tubes of sediment from the New York and New Jersey area, they discovered layers of unusual debris that, they suggest, were laid down by tsunamis.

"We have layers up to maybe 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) thick," Abbott said. "They get thinner upriver, where they're more like 6 centimeters (2.3 inches) thick."

Within these potential tsunami layers is evidence of a cosmic impact, including shocked minerals and microscopic carbon beads loaded with "nano-diamonds," which are "all things only impacts can do," Abbott said. One candidate for the crater that was produced by this impact, she said, lies in the undersea Carteret Canyon, located

roughly 90 miles (150 km) off the coast of New Jersey.

Other scientists have raised alternate explanations for these layers. For instance, volcanic eruptions or gigantic landslides on the other side of the Atlantic might have caused the giant waves. Or these anomalous layers of sediment that Abbott and her colleagues are investigating may not have been caused by tsunamis at all - hurricanes can generate huge pulses of water known as storm surges, whose effects on sediment could resemble those of tsunamis.

"Of course, that doesn't explain the evidence of impact that we've found," Abbott said. For a cosmic impact, one smoking gun would be a specific form of deformed rock known as shocked quartz. The rock is generated

by the intense heat and pressure of a collision with an extraterrestrial object. "But if there was an oceanic impact, the oceanic crust doesn't really have quartz to shock," Abbott said.

It there were tsunamis, it remains unclear if ancient Native Americans witnessed them.

"One possible reason why Indian tribes only moved into the area relatively recently is that the people who were once there were all wiped out," Abbott said. "If you look at the predicted wave heights, there would have been few places to hide."

Abbott and her colleagues plan to detail their most recent findings Nov. 3 in Denver, at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. □

IN VITRO

Continued from Previous Page

It looked at in vitro procedures around the country between 2004 and 2008. Researchers were able to match IVF procedures to individuals based on their date of birth, Social Security and other information. This is important because this gives doctors and couples a better sense of how likely an IVF treatment is going to result in a baby.

Over the five-year period, some 300,000 women had more than half a million IVF cycles that resulted in 171,327 first-time deliveries. The live birth rate was 36 percent on the first IVF try, 48 percent with a second cycle and 53 percent with a third attempt.

Among those who tried seven or more

times, the chance of success was 56 percent — hardly any better than the 53 percent after three tries.

The findings show "diminishing returns" after three IVF cycles, said lead researcher Luke. "The results are not going to be much better."

That doesn't necessarily mean women should give up, she said. There are other options including using donor eggs or a surrogate mother.

The study, presented Wednesday at a reproductive medicine meeting in Denver, did not look at success rates based on age or other factors that may influence the outcome. Luke said future studies will examine those other issues.

Advocates who help infertile couples say this will help them in their decision-

making.

After repeated futile treatments, couples can use the data to keep on trying or consider other options such as adoption, said Barbara Collura, executive director of the nonprofit Resolve: The National Infertility Association. □

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Argentina: Murió el ex presidente Kirchner

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - El ex presidente argentino Néstor Kirchner, figura central de la política nacional de los últimos tiempos, murió este miércoles, anunció el gobierno. Tenía 60 años.

El esposo de la actual presidenta Cristina Fernández falleció por “una afección cardíaca” en un hospital de la Patagonia argentina, de donde era oriundo, destacó la página oficial del gobierno.

Fernández se encontraba junto a su esposo cuando éste se descompuso y fue trasladado de urgencia al hospital municipal Formenti de Calafate, en la provincia austral de Santa Cruz, lugar de descanso de Kirchner y donde falleció.

El médico personal de Kirchner, Luis Bonomi, dijo que el ex presidente tuvo una “muerte súbita”.

Kirchner falleció a las 09.15 (12.15 GMT) “como consecuencia de un paro cardiorespiratorio no traumático, que no respondió a las maniobras de resucitación básica y avanzada”, precisó luego un comunicado médico difundido por el vocero presidencial Alfredo Scoccimarro.

Los restos de Kirchner serán velados a partir de la mañana del jueves en uno de los salones de la Casa de Gobierno, destacó Scoccimarro.

El portavoz precisó que el gobierno decretó tres días de duelo nacional entre este miércoles y el viernes. Ese duelo, que no entorpece la actividad laboral, se traduce, entre otras, cosas en que la bandera argentina flameará a media asta en los edificios públicos.

El deceso de Kirchner, hombre fuerte del heterogéneo movimiento peronista que fundara Juan Domingo Perón, encontró a los argentinos en su mayor parte en sus hogares, a la espera de un censo nacional. Organizaciones



Imagen de archivo del ex presidente argentino Néstor Kirchner, dando un discurso en su llegada a Bogotá en calidad de Secretario General de Unasur. Ago 6 2010 El ex presidente Néstor Kirchner era considerado el político más poderoso de Argentina y muchos aseguraban que estaba detrás de cada una de las decisiones de la actual mandataria, su esposa Cristina Fernández. REUTERS/John Vizcaino/ARCHIVO

“Kirchneristas” convocaron para después de las 20.00 (2300 GMT), a la finalización del censo, a una concentración en homenaje al ex presidente en la emblemática Plaza de Mayo, frente a la Casa de Gobierno. Pero, anticipándose a ese horario, centenares de personas empezaron a llegar a la plaza, en forma silenciosa. Varios de ellos portaban banderas argentinas, en homenaje a Kirchner o en apoyo al gobierno de Fernández.

“Gracias Néstor. Pusiste a la Argentina de pie. Te vamos a extrañar”, decía una de esas banderas, en su totalidad escritas en forma improvisada a mano.

“Gracias Néstor por acordarte de los pobres”, se leía en otra de las banderas en homenaje a Kirchner, bajo cuyo mandato se dictaron leyes que beneficiaron a los humildes.

Otros manifestantes se acercaban a un vallado frente a la Casa de Gobierno y depositaban flores o bien mensajes de condolencias, en un ambiente dominado por un silencio que dejaba escuchar algunos llantos.

Melina Izzo, 21 años, militante del peronismo, el partido de Kirchner, definió al ex presidente como “un

gran político, de un enorme carisma. Tomó medidas para el pueblo como ningún otro lo hizo”.

César Brito, de 67 años, también declarado peronista, señaló que la política de Kirchner “reivindicó a los trabajadores y les devolvió algo de dignidad. Hizo a un pueblo feliz”.

Varios carteles apoyaban a la presidenta Fernández, como uno que decía: “Fuerza Cristina, el pueblo argentino te necesita”.

El mástil de Plaza de Mayo y de edificios de organismos oficiales, tenían su bandera a media asta.

“Habrá una manifestación para homenajear a Kirchner y demostrarle a Cristina que estamos con ella, apoyándola”, precisó el titular del Movimiento Evita, Emilio Pérsico.

“En estos días demostraremos en las calles que somos millones los que vamos a reemplazar a Kirchner”, afirmó el dirigente social en reunión de prensa.

La Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), principal central obrera del país, se reunió de urgencia y convocó a una concentración de trabajadores el jueves frente a la casa de Gobierno para despedir los restos del

ex mandatario.

Además, respaldó al gobierno de Fernández y le dio su apoyo en caso de que la mandataria se presente para un nuevo mandato en las elecciones presidenciales de octubre de 2011.

“Ratificamos nuestra absoluta convicción de acompañar a la presidenta hasta sus últimos días como presidenta”, dijo el líder de la CGT, Hugo Moyano.

“Y si quiere proseguir también la apoyaremos”, agregó ese sindicalista del poderoso gremio de los camioneros.

Kirchner, considerado el político más importante del país, había sido internado el pasado 11 de septiembre en el Sanatorio de los Arcos, de Buenos Aires, donde le practicaron una angioplastia. En 2005 había sido internado en un hospital de la capital argentina para un chequeo, y en enero de 2006 padeció una descompensación gástrica.

El diputado nacional del Frente para la Victoria (oficialista), Juan Carlos Dante Gullo, lamentó la muerte del ex presidente al señalar que “desgraciadamente hemos perdido a un patriota”.

“Ojalá todos podamos comprender lo que significa y lo que significó Néstor

Kirchner”, dijo Gullo a la televisión estatal. “Desgraciadamente, es la realidad y es tremendo. Ojalá nos ilumine a todos; es una pérdida irreparable”.

La titular de Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, Estela de Carlotto, dijo que Kirchner “dio la vida por su país”.

“Nuestro país lo necesitaba tanto a este hombre. Se fue alguien indispensable”, dijo a radio Continental la dirigente de esa organización que busca a nietos desaparecidos durante la última dictadura militar.

El jefe del gobierno porteño, Mauricio Macri, dijo que “hoy es un día de duelo para todos los argentinos”.

“Mis más sinceras condolencias para la presidenta y su familia”, dijo en un comunicado Macri, adversario político de Kirchner.

Las expresiones de pesar y los mensajes de condolencias surgían no sólo desde el mundo político o social.

El presidente de la Asociación del Fútbol Argentino, Julio Grondona, al enterarse de la muerte de Kirchner canceló todas sus actividades en Zurich, sede de la FIFA, de la cual es vicepresidente.

La AFA, según su página oficial, se suma al “luto nacional”, sin especificar los alcances de la medida, que podría incluir la suspensión de partidos de este fin de semana.

El ex mandatario era al momento de su muerte secretario general de la Unión de Naciones Sudamericanas (Unasur).

Kirchner fue presidente entre el 25 de mayo del 2003 al 10 de diciembre de 2007, cuando fue sucedido por su esposa, con la cual estaba casado desde 1975. Tuvieron dos hijos, Máximo y Florencia.

Kirchner tenía planes de volver a presentarse como candidato a la presidencia para las elecciones de 2011. □

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